



VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

Minutes of the Vaal Dam Catchment Forum Meeting held on 24 February 2011 at Deneysville: DWA Offices

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
P Malapela	VEJA	A Briel	Knight Piesold
M.E Matseba	DWA	C Grey	Eskom
J Vosloo	Agrienvirolab	T Oosthuizen	Knight Piesold
G Vosloo	Agrienvirolab	S Motloung	NWU
L Muso	DoH	T Ntholi	Rand Water
S Mporetji	Rand Water	W. Pienaar	Eskom
D Tinghitsu	DWA	N Qamakwane	VEJA
N Morena	DoH	C Mohlahli	DoH
M Xaba	DoH	R Hariram	Rand Water
T Matale	DoH	T. Pather	DWA
F Mamabolo	DWA	J Schalkwyk	Midvaal
I Main	Save the Vaal	O Pilane	Midvaal
B Main	Save the Vaal		

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction of attendees and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. Hariram welcomed everyone to the forum meeting and requested everyone to introduce themselves. <p>Apologies MM Manaka - DWA F. Schoeman – Early Bird Farms</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of Previous Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were then accepted as a true reflection of what was discussed during the previous meeting 	
3. 3.1	<p>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Mamabolo reported that the guideline is available from the WRC; she will make it available to forum members via the reservoir website. S. Mporetji from Rand Water will ensure that the guideline is available on the website. 	DWA RO & S. Mporetji
4. 4.1	<p>Additions to the Agenda and Approval of the Agenda.</p> <p>The following additions were made to the Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.3 Grootvlei Powerstation development 8.4 Vaal River classification project 8.5 VEJA 8.6 Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) 	

	8.7 NWU Students 8.8 Forum Charter 8.9 Landfill sites 8.10 Election of new forum Chairperson	
5.	<p>Water Quality in the Vaal Dam Catchment</p> <p>DWA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Mamabolo presented the Water quality report for the period 1 October 2010 to 31 December 2010 and the reports use the General Standards as well as the instream RWQO to measure compliance. • She indicated that Vaal River at Villiers is struggling to comply with conductivity. • P. Malapela asked how long the situation at Villiers has been persisting and what is the cause of the non-compliance. F. Mamabolo responded by saying that the WWTW is very old and the infrastructure is old, there is lack of skilled staff and the system is overloaded, they are operating without a water use licence. <p>Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Mporetji presented the water quality status for the quarter starting 1 October 2010 to 31 December 2010. Generally the water quality for this catchment is ideal to acceptable. • The Standerton WWTW is still non-compliant almost all the variables and it is clear that the system is not working. • He mentioned that he is still having problems accessing data on E-Coli but will make the results available as soon as he has them. 	DWA RO
6.	<p>Report Back from Stakeholders in the Vaal Dam catchment</p> <p>Phumelela Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. <p>Lekwa Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>Metsimaholo Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>Early Bird Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report, an apology was forwarded to DWA. <p>Grootvlei Power Station.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a pollution incident on 21 December 2010 at their four dams 	DWA RO

	<p>(east and south terrace, lower ash dam and coal stock yard dam), the water overflowed due to heavy rains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incident was reported to DWA • As a contingency the dams are pumped as soon as they reach 20% capacity. <p>Midvaal Local Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Main took a report to the Municipality detailing the pollution the municipality is causing with their poorly operated WWTW. 	
7.	<p>Catchment Management Agency (CMA) update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Matseba mentioned that the Institutional re-alignment process is still underway and the forum will be notified as soon as it is finalized. • P. Malapela mentioned that this re-alignment process has caused a lot of uncertainty with regards to forums. M. Matseba reassured him that the forums will continue and urged him to keep to forums alive. 	
8.	<p>General</p> <p>8.1 Water Use License Applications Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Mamabolo gave a status of the WULA's in the catchment, she indicated that Vrede & Memel are still with the Regional office undergoing initial assessment. • Villiers, Cornrlia and Standerton still have not submitted any applications • The Metsi Maholo application is with the Letsema team for evaluation. 	F. Mamabolo to follow up on the intentions of Midvaal with the existing plant
8.2	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Main reported that the landfill site operated by Midvaal is causing pollution as stormwater from the site flows into the Eskom dams. • O. Pilane from the municipality responded by saying that they are facing difficulty in managing the site effectively as there are scavengers on site. He also indicated that they one borehole downstream on the site and the water quality result are available. • The Municipality has dug trenches around the site to divert the flow of stormwater away from the Eskom dams • The site is currently illegal but the Municipality has plans to legalise it and use it as a transfer station 	
8.3	<p>Grootvlei Powerstation development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Oosthuizen gave a presentation on the new powerline project. • She indicated that there will be two new 88 kV lines and this will require section 21 c & i a water use licence. • The length of the line will be 28 km (from Burnstone Gold mine to 	

	<p>Grootvlei Powerstation)and it will cut across Suikerbos and Molspruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She also discussed the wetland report that indicated that the PES of the wetland is C or D because of the poor water quality. This can be attributed to the activities around the PowerStation. 	
8.4	<p>Vaal River Classification study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultant appointed by DWA will give feedback on the progress of the study. • The study will be conducted over a period of two years. 	
8.5	<p>VEJA (Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. P Malapela presented what their group is about to the forum and also highlighted the issues that they are concerned with. 	
8.6	<p>Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a cabinet report on AMD has been completed and is available on the DWA website 	
8.7	<p>Students from NWU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students are busy with research in conjunction with NWU, WRC, Mvula Trust and Fezile Dabi. This research will check the status of the municipal WWTW in the district. 	
8.8	<p>Forum Charter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson R. Hariram requested forum members to read through the forum charter and see if they can make the charter better. If there are any comments or suggestions they must be forwarded to the chairperson. 	
8.9	<p>Landfill sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Pather reported that there are many small landfill sites in the catchment and they are generally well managed. • The Vaal Marina site is poorly managed and T. Pather is in contact with the Free State DEA around this issue. • He also mentioned that DWA cannot issue directives to landfill sites as the responsibility lies with the provincial DEA office. 	
8.10	<p>Election of new forum Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Reverk Hariram from Rand Water was elected as the new Chairperson for the Vaal Dam catchment Forum; we wish him the best of success in his new role. Forum members are urged to support him and cooperate to foster good relations between all members. 	
9	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Hariram thanked everyone for attending and participating, he then closed the meeting. <p>Next Meeting: 26 May 2011</p>	