



# VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

24 November 2004

EARLYBIRD FARM, STANDERTON

## VDR FORUM ATTENDANCE LIST

		<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent With Apologies</i>	<i>Absent Without Apologies</i>
1. <b>Didi Masoabi</b> – Rand Water	DM		X	
2. <b>Karen Chetty</b> – Rand Water	KC	X		
3. <b>Cebo Mhlongo</b> – Rand Water	CM	X		
4. <b>Freek Schoemaan</b> – Earlybird Standerton	FS			X
5. <b>Korf Stoltz</b> – Earlybird Standerton	KS		X	
6. <b>Louis Makhubele</b> – DWAF	LM	X		
7. <b>Thabo Moloji</b> – DWAF	TM	X		
8. <b>Thandi Mthembu</b> – DWAF	TMt	X		
9. <b>Pieter Vermaak</b> – DWAF	PV			X
10. <b>Gideon Vosloo</b> – Enviro Agriculture	GV	X		
11. <b>Thys Koen</b> – Toga Linings	TK		X	
12. <b>Mike Ludick</b> – Mpumalanga Agric	ML		X	
13. <b>Seppi Claassen</b> – Lekwa Municipality	SC	X		X
14. <b>Punky Mohale</b> – Dept Health – Lekwa Munici	PM	X		
15. <b>JG van Wyk</b> – Lekwa Municipality	JvW	X		
16. <b>N J Kock</b> – Lekwa Municipality Fire Brigade	JK			X
17. <b>MD Makhatha</b> – Lekwa Municipality Fire Brigade	MM			X
18. <b>Letona Mohlahli</b> – Dept Health Free State	LMo	X		
19. <b>Mlungisi Sithebe</b> – Dept Health Free State	MS	X		
20. <b>Andronica Nthite</b> – Dept Health Free State	AN	X		
21. <b>Tefelo J Mofokeng</b> – Dept Health Free State	TJM			X
22. <b>Ntsoaki S Mosikili</b> – Dept Health Free State	NSM	X		
23. <b>Zola Khotou</b> – DACE Mpumalanga	ZK			X
24. <b>Madoda Besani</b> – Phumelela Local Municipality	MB	X		

No	Item	Action
<b>1. Welcome</b>	The chairman GV welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked that everyone give a brief introduction of themselves.	
<b>2. Apologies</b>	Mike Ludick (ML) Didi Masoabi (DM) Korf Stoltz (KS) Thys Koen (TK)	
<b>3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following corrections were made to the minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On page 2 , Warden must be in capital letter.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>4. Additions to the Agenda</b>	There were no formal additions made to the agenda.	
<b>5. Matters arising from the Previous Minutes</b>	<p>5.1 REPORTBACK FROM VREDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MB reported that the Vrede sewerage works was scheduled to commence operating by the end of November 2004.</li> <li>Two service providers have done technical audits at all the water plants in Vrede, and their findings were presented to the Municipal manager.</li> <li>Sedibeng water was nominated to assist the municipality in managing technical services, however it is not known as to how long would this assistance be. The possibility of the service provider taking over the management of these services might be considered.</li> <li>A task team from province that was doing investigations at the municipality finished its report and made recommendations to the MEC.</li> <li>Repairs have been made at the pumpstations which were a source of water pollution problems at Vrede.</li> <li>Funding for this was aquired from the provincial department intervention funding.</li> <li>A question was asked regarding the water quality problems at Vrede.</li> <li>LMO informed the meeting that water quality samples have been taken, results are still being awaited and monitoring will be continued.</li> <li>MB responded that new chlorinators were also installed at the water purification plant. He further said that water quality is being monitored by the Environmentek division of CSIR who provides water quality analysis every month and that the latest results available were for October 2004.</li> <li>GV asked if the area affected by the previous sewerage pollution would be remediated.</li> <li>MB responded that the remediation work at the pumpstations was in the scope of work to be carried out by the service provider.</li> <li>The unspecified time phrames associated with these current activities at the municipality was raised as a concern.</li> <li>Phumelela municipality was once again encouraged to continue participating in the forums.</li> </ul> <p>5.2 REPORT BACK FROM THE FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LMO reported that the meeting that was scheduled between the Deputy Director, Department of Health Free State, to discuss water related problems in the free state, was not held due to the unavailability of the forum members (LM, KC) who were supposed to attend this meeting.</li> <li>Another meeting would be arranged in future.</li> </ul>	LM, Lmo & KC

### 5.3 REPORT BACK FROM DWAF WATER SUPPLY

- TM was tasked with taking up the illegal water use by farmers with DWAF's water supply management. TM was unable to do this since he was on study leave.
- GV spoke to Mr Mike Ludick from the Department of Agriculture, who informed him that farmers without authorisations for water use are not supposed to use water.
- TM said that the issuing of water use licences for agricultural use is a problem in DWAF, this process is very slow therefore not efficient.
- He added that according to his knowledge no licences have been issued in the Standerton area.
- TM would give more details regarding the water use licences issues in the area, after consulting Mr Walther van der Westhuizen of the DWAF regional office.
- It was highlighted that we need to get a status report on the number of licences issued in the area. An indication of how many people are using water in the area as well as how much water is being used. TMt and TM were asked to look at this and present this in the next meeting.

TM &  
TMt

### 5.4 REPORT BACK FROM STANDERTON SEWERAGE WORKS

- SC reported that the sewerage works had a problem with blowers due to a thunderstorm, this resulted in pollution of the Vaal river. However this problem has been sorted out and the works is operating normally, and water quality should improve.

## 6. Presentation

### 6.1 LIZARD GOLF ESTATE VAAL DAM

- Ms Ilse Aucamp and Mr Rhett Smart of Tswelopele Environmental consultants made a presentation regarding a proposed Golf estate development at Vaal dam.
- The project would involve development of a Golf Course, construction of a marina which would require the upgrade of the dam, stream flow reduction and a change of land use.
- A Scoping report for this project was submitted to the authorities for approval.
- A question was asked regarding waste and sewerage management plans for the new housing development.
- The meeting was informed that the Metsimaholo municipality has given an indication that they would be able to treat the additional waste coming from this new area.
- The oranjeville sewerage works managed by the Metsimaholo municipality is in a condition to handle any additional sewerage load.
- LM indicated that the DWAF is not aware of this development and would consult the Municipality regarding the proposed waste management plan.
- The consultants were asked if they had consulted the Department of Water Affairs with regards to this development.
- Tswelopele responded that the DWAF Free state was consulted.
- Riana Munnik said that water quality management in the Vaal Dam falls within the jurisdiction of the Gauteng regional office of the DWAF , therefore the DWAF gauteng office should be consulted on this.
- She also added that the waste disposal site would also have to be upgraded to a general medium or large site, which would need to be permitted, for it to be able to cater for this development.
- DWAF further added that they would like to comment on future EIA documents on the project.

LM

## 7. Water Quality in the VDR Catchment

- LM presented water quality snapshot data, for the September and October months from the DWAF database.
- CM questioned the usefulness of the Volksrust and Vukuzakhe data, which actually falls outside the Vaal Dam Catchment.
- LM responded that this data is from monitoring that DWAF Gauteng region is conducting in this area, due to the absence of officers from the KZN office who are supposed to be doing this work.
- CM added that the consolidation of the Volksrust and Vukuzakhe data with the rest of the Vaal dam

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Catchment data is misleading and this data should not be presented with the rest of the data for the catchment in future.

- It was also requested that the map of the catchment showing the monitoring points needs to be made available.
- KC presented data from Rand water monitoring in the Vrede and Memel area.
- She also added that more data and other information has been posted on the Reservoir website, including an updated list of the forum stakeholders.
- KC also added that any suggestions for the website are welcome. KC and LM to be contacted for this.
- It was suggested that DWAF should consolidate the water quality monitoring data from CSIR, Rand Water and DWAF and incorporate all this data into a single report.
- RM said that this kind of a report would be valuable, however putting together such a report would be time consuming.
- She also added that DWAF is able to provide 5 years worth of data, from their Water Management System which would also provide valuable information.
- Reporting of data to DWAF by the different stakeholders would also make reporting easier, however this is currently not happening.
- LM added that Water Management System graphs would be presented in the next meeting to show 5 year trends.

LM

## 8. Pollution Incidents

### 8.1 EARLYBIRD FARM IN STANDERTON

- Spillage of 100L of diesel at earlybird plant on 4 November 2004. The Spill was contained and clean up was done.

### 8.2 ALGAE PROBLEMS DOWNSTREAM OF GROOTDRAAIDAM

- The seems to be algae problems in the vaal river, just downstream of Grootdraaidam.
- It was said that there are a number of possibilities which could be the cause of this, it might be farming activities in the area, the Bethal sewerage works is also causing problems in the area.

### 8.3 FISH KILL IN VILLIERS

- Two complaints were received by Rand Water, about fish kill incidents in the Vaal river at Villiers, downstream of the Qualabotjha sewerage works.
- CM investigated the matter, however there was no evidence of pollution. It was noted that this could be due to the low flows being experienced in the Vaal.

## 9. Issues and Concerns:

### 9.1 PLAYPUMPS

- LMo reported that playpumps were installed in Vrede.
- He was asked about the procedure for acquiring these playpumps.
- LMo said that the playpumps were available and that people who need them need to apply for one from DWAF.
- SC added that they (Lekwa Municipality) wrote a letter to DWAF who provided them with pumps free of charge.
- SC further said that they were experiencing problems with installing pumps at the schools.
- He said that installing playpumps in schools has become a political decision, since politicians feel that installation of playpumps in the schools interferes with learning in the schools.
- SC further added that they do not really have problems with water availability in the schools, sanitation is the main challenge in the area.
- LMo said that there is still serious water shortages in Vrede, a lot of schools are without water.
- GV commented that the impact of pit latrines on ground water is also important for consideration in dealing with sanitation in the rural areas.

<p>9.2 TRAINING FOR STUDENTS IN 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was announced that Mlunglisi Sithebe and Andronica Nthite, were attending their last meeting with us. Their training with Department of Health free state has ended.</li><li>• LMo asked for information on any companies which are willing to take students for training in 2005.</li><li>• CM said that Rand Water does take students for training, which includes courses and plant visits.</li></ul> <p>9.3 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GV suggested that the inactive technical committee needs to be revived.</li><li>• LM to check minutes from the previous technical committee meeting.</li></ul> <p><b>10. Dates for future meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The following dates were agreed upon for the next year's meetings: 23 February 2005 25 May 2005 24 August 2005 23 November 2005</li></ul> <p><b>11. Closure :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting was adjourned at about 11h50. A date for the next meeting was set for the 23 February 2005.</li></ul>	LM
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