



VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

25 February 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			
4. Korf Stoltz – Earlybird Standerton	KS	X		
5. Louis Makhubele – DWAF	LM	X		
6. Thabo Moloi – DWAF	TM	X		
7. Thandi Mthembu – DWAF	TMt		X	
8. Pieter Vermaak – DWAF	PV			X
9. Gideon Vosloo – Enviro Agriculture	GV	X		
10. Thys Koen– Toga Linings	TK	X		
11. Mike Ludick – Mpumalanga Agric	ML			X
12. Seppi Claassen – Lekwa Municipality	SC		X	
13. Punky Mohale – Dept Health – Lekwa Municipi	PM		X	
14. JG van Wyk – Lekwa Municipality	JvW	X		
15. MD Makhatha – Lekwa Municipality Fire Brigade	MM			
16. Letona Mohlahli – Dept Health Free State	LMo			X
17. Tefelo J Mofokeng – Dept Health Free State	TJM			X
18. Ntsoaki S Mosikili – Dept Health Free State	NSM	X		
19. Zola Kutsu – DACE Mpumalanga	ZK	X		
20. Madoda Besani – Phumelela Local Municipality	MB		X	
21. Vusi Hlatshwayo – Lekwa Municipality	VH	X		
22. Carlvin Tjale – Environmental Health	CT	X		
23. Ashendri Reddy – Lekwa Department Health	AR	X		
24. Thembinkosi Mavuso – Dace Mpumalanga	TMa	X		
25. Archie Thobejani – DWAF	AT	X		
26. Seef Rademeyer – DWAF	SR	X		
27. Juanita van der Berg – DWAF	JvdB	X		
28. MB Makhaba – Dept Health Free State	MK	X		
29. Z G Magadal – Dept Health free State	ZM	X		
30. CN Oliphant – Dept Health free state	CO	X		
31. SN Mosikili – Dept Health Free State	SM	X		

No	Item	Action
1.	Welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairman GV welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked that everyone give a brief introduction of themselves. 	
2	Apologies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punky Mohale (PM) Thandi Mthembu (TM) Seppie Claassen (SC) Madoda Besani (MB) 	
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following corrections were made to the minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On page 1, ZK name was spelled incorrectly. 	
4	Additions to the Agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following items were added to the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Committee Report Back Vaal Dam Forum Charter Forum Letter Head 	
5	Matters arising from the Previous Minutes	
5.1	REPORT BACK FROM THE FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Health Free State was awaited to come with an alternative date for the proposed meeting with DWAF and Rand Water Forum members, regarding sewerage pollution in the Free State. 	
5.2	REPORT BACK FROM DWAF WATER SUPPLY	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TM made a presentation on the use of water in the catchment, in relation to the number of authorisations and registered users. TM also explained the different authorisation to use water, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule 1 water use which is a permissible water use which is mainly for reasonable domestic use and watering of small gardens and livestock, except for feedlots. This does not need to be registered. General Authorisation, requires registration of water use and is for water use at a small scale and would therefore not need a licence. Existing lawful water uses, these uses are also required to register. These are water uses that have permits issued under the old Water act, they do not need to apply for authorisations as long as they still remain valid. DWAF has a Water Management System, WARMS, which is used for registering all water users, for new users and existing users. Also used for managing issuing of authorisations. TM would present some data to the Forum, as soon as the WARMS system is up and running in their office. TM explained that a lot people use water illegally due to frustrations with DWAF, because of the fact that DWAF receives more applications than they can process in time. Determining the number of illegal water users is a problem, however illegal irrigations can also be picked up from aerial photographs. TM also explained that most people mistake registrations as licensing and this has been a source of confusion, adding to the illegal water use problems. TM also added that another misunderstanding is that people think that they can transfer licences between properties. This is not allowed since a licence is property specific. TM added that transference of licences between different sectors can be done, e.g. from farming to industry, however not necessarily at the same volume. 	

6 Water Quality in the VDR Catchment

6.1 DWAF

- LM made a presentation on water quality data from DWAF's database, showing five year water quality trends.
- LM showed graphs of water quality data from different sewerage effluent in the catchment.
- LM highlighted that the poor water quality discharged from the sewerage works in the catchment is the main source of poor water quality in the catchment.
- Water with high Faecal coliform counts, high Nitrates and Ammonium are discharged from sewerage works in the catchments, resulting in the increases in salt loading in the catchment.
- Addressing municipal problems still remains the main focus of DWAF water quality management officers in the catchment.

6.2 Rand Water

- KC made a presentation on water quality, from Rand Water's monitoring data.
- KC highlighted that the reason for Rand Water's interest in Water Quality in the catchment is that they treat water from the Vaal Dam.
- Rand Water's business requires stricter water quality objectives. The forum must however decide on water quality guidelines that would be more relevant to the catchment.
- KC showed graphs of a general increase in COD in the catchment since 2002.
- Conductivity is also increasing since 2000 at standerton and Klip river, this could be due to agricultural activities in the area.
- KC highlighted that conductivity is a very important parameter to Rand Water. Conductivity is a general indicator of dissolved salts in the water and the more saline the water is, the more expensive it is for Rand Water to treat the water.
- KC also showed that Fluorides in the water were generally high in 2001.
- Alkalinity is also generally high, especially at VDS and KSV.
- Nitrates were also high at VD41, the possible sources could be due to the use of pesticides, sewerage works or agricultural activities.
- KC reminded the meeting that all the data presented are also available on the Reservoir website.

7 Report back from the Vaal Dam Forum Technical Committee

- GV informed the meeting that the Forum's Technical Committee has been revived.
- LM reported that the committee would re-look at the issues of developing the Water Quality Objectives for the catchment.
- A copy of the Vaal Dam Charter was also distributed and comments on this were to be forwarded to KC.
- LM informed the forum that the forum logo would be amended, this would mainly be changing the size of the logo so as it would not take up a lot of space in the website. It was also requested that suggestions on the logo should be forwarded to KC

8 Water Week

- The DWAF theme for this year's Water Week is "Water is Life".
- GV said that a water week event will be organised for the catchment, by the forum.
- DWAF and Rand Water were asked to coordinate the event.
- Lekwa Department of Health was asked to do a presentation during the water week event.
- LM said that DWAF Head office had indicated that there would be no promotional tools for this year's water week, except for posters.
- KC indicated that they requested promotional T-shirts and water bottles from the Rand Water Corporate and Marketing and she was still waiting for a response.
- ZK indicated that he would find out from their environment education section if they can take part, however ZK added that if the event is not within the Mpumalanga province, Mpumalanga DACE would not be able to contribute, since it would be outside their jurisdiction.

LM, KC,
DM

9 Pollution Incidents

- No pollution incidents in the Catchment were reported.
- MB was not in the meeting to report on Vrede.
- Ashendri Reddy (AR), Lekwa Department of Health reported that they have found high E.coli counts from the Standerton sewerage works effluent. This would be taken up with the municipality division responsible for the works.
- LM added that the Standerton sewerage works had mechanical problems that they reported to DWAF, this could also have contributed to the poor water quality effluent.
- ZK requested that they should also be informed of any pollution incidents within the Mpumalanga province in the Catchment. Mpumalanga DACE has a section called Department of Agriculture and Land Association that deals with pollution issues.

AR

ALL

10 Other Issues and Concerns:

- Seef Rademeyer (SR) from DWAF National Water Resource Planning, would make a presentation in future forum meeting, to discuss the Catchment Management Agency (CMA) and Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) and the DWAF internal Strategic perspective
- The participation at the forum of other Municipalities in the Catchment and Eskom. LM was tasked to look at this.
- Mr John Kock of the fire brigade has left Lekwa Municipality Emergency Services and would not be in the forum anymore.
- Cebo Mhlongo also left Rand Water, he would also not be involved in the forum anymore.
- LM was tasked to inform the Lekwa Municipal Emergency services of Mr Kock's involvement in the Forum and to request that his replacement should participate in the forum.
- LM added that a design of a forum letter head was also being looked at.
- KS commented that the inability of the forum, to have control, through the different stakeholders, on the water quality offenders in the catchment is a frustration and a concern. He added that the fact that municipalities are not complying with regulations and are getting away with it is not acceptable. The forum meetings discussions still circulate around the same issue with no solution being reached.

LM

LM

11 Dates for future meetings:

- The following dates were agreed upon for the next year's meetings:
 - 25 May 2005
 - 24 August 2005
 - 23 November 2005

12 Closure :

- The meeting was adjourned at about 11h50. A date for the next meeting was set for the 23 February 2005.
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