



VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

Minutes of the Vaal Dam Catchment Forum Meeting held on 25 February 2010 at Deneysville

PRESENT:

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| M. Likhetho |
| F. Mamabolo |
| B.H. Van der Walt |
| M.Lubbe |
| J.Botha |
| D. Ristic |
| H.J. Kriel |
| F.J. Schoeman |
| S. Mporetji |
| P. Moodley |
| L.M. Mhlambi |
| N. Khumalo |
| J. Van Zyl |
| N. Radebe |
| C. Mohlahli |
| T. Lepheana |
| T. Manyatsa |
| L. Bapela |

| | DISCUSSION | ACTION/FOLLOW UP |
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| 1. | <p>Welcome and introduction of attendees and apologies</p> <p>M Likhetho welcomed everyone to the first forum meeting for 2010.</p> <p>Apologies K Chetty M Manaka W Pienaar</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Approval of Previous Meeting</p> <p>There were no changes made and minutes were accepted as a true reflection of what was discussed during the previous meeting</p> | |
| 3. 3.1 | <p>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</p> <p>F.Mamabolo reported that the Department received three water use</p> | |

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| | licence for wastewater treatment works (WWTW), the Vaal Marina (new WWTW), Orangeville and Deneysville WWTW. She reported that there is the Letsema Project Team involved in eradicating the backlog water use licence application. The team will be visiting the Gauteng Region in April. | |
| 4. | Additions to the Agenda and Approval of the Agenda. | |
| 4.1 | 5 burning issues in the catchment | |
| 4.2 | Guideline for the Inspection of WWTW | |
| 4.3 | Water week | |
| 5. | <p>Water Quality in the Vaal Dam Catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>DWAF</p> <p>F. Mamabolo gave presentation on the water quality status of the Vaal Dam catchment. All WWTW in the catchment are not complying with most of the variables. S.Mporetji asked when DWA will start issuing Directives to non complying WWTW. F.Mamabolo mentioned that DWA must proof that it has exhausted all avenues like giving support, following the Enforcement Protocol's procedure to assist in resolving the matter before issuing Directives. F. Mamabolo further indicated the poor attendance of Municipality representatives at the forums, and was concerned of how they will be advised if their not attending the forums, and use the platform to present their problems and receive advice from forum members on how to deal with the challenges that they are faced with at their WWTW. M.Likhethe suggested the establishment of technical team advices from the forum or committee that will visit the WWTW giving advice on how to solve their problems to help them to comply.</p> <p>Rand Water</p> <p>M Likhethé gave a presentation for the Vaal Dam water quality status. He reported that the overall water quality status for Vaal dam is in an acceptable state with the exception of Standerton Sewage Works sample point which is the only WWTW that is sampled by Rand Water in the Vaal dam catchment. He mentioned that Rand Water samples the Mol spruit during rainy season, as it only flows during rainy seasons. S. Mporetji asked if DWA can use Rand Water's water quality report to enforce non-compliance of WWTW. M. Likhethé responded that DWA has their own Water Quality Report that they can use. Rand Water use their report to advice the management and their purification works about the quality of raw water in the Dam to enable rand water to take proper mitigation steps during their treatment process and also help water users to know the status of the water quality in the catchment and advice those that impact negatively on the water resource during catchment forums meetings. D Ristic explained the contents of cooperative governance and the enforcement protocol that needs to be followed when working with other spheres of Government.</p> | <p>All Forum members to think about M. Likhethé's suggestion of establishment technical team or committee that will visit the WWTW giving advise on how to solve their problems in order to comply.</p> |

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| 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"> Reported that they experience power failure problems during December and January which is usually during heavy rainfalls. Reported challenges of hydraulic overloading Metsimaholo alluded poor effluent discharge to influx of people from other provinces due to the proposed power station in Deneysville and this resulted in hydraulic overloading of WWTW. M. Likhetho mentioned that in the 4 year period that he had been attending the forum he had never seen Orangeville and Deneysville WWTW complying with water quality standards. Reported that there are plans of upgrading the drinking water plant but the status quo of upgrading the WWTW is not yet known. <p>Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported that they used to have problems with power failure and DME has upgraded the transformer to resolve the problem. They used to have problems of overflowing pump station, now they have installed new pump station and the problem is resolved. There is a delay in submitting water use licence M. Likhetho mentioned that there was an agreement in one of the previous meetings that municipalities must report on developments and pollution incidents and DWA must give feedback of EIA's that they comment on. <p>Seme Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent without apology <p>Early Bird Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported that they don't discharge into the water resource, they use the wastewater for irrigation <p>Grootvlei Power Station.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported that they have received their water use licence. There are delays of transferring the WWTW to the municipality because the WWTW is not licenced | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a plan of demolishing an old dam and rehabilitate the area • The Power Station is reusing the ash water for cooling • There is a plan of doing an ISO 14001 audit in 3 months but the problem is the WWTW that is long overdue for its transfer from Power Station to the municipality • There have been some minor oil spills that have not been reported to the Department <p>Department of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that they always have problems with pollution from Phumelela municipality which they report to DWA Bloemfontein officer • They have projects or programmes for water and sanitation • They will relook into a concern that was raised of mortuaries using more water • They will investigate the treatment of WWTW of hospitals and clinics, if any • Mentioned that they have a challenge of a livestock farmer who would like to know how he must handle the wastewater that he generates on the farm. DWA was tasked to investigate on the existence of Water Quality Guidelines | <p>Dept of Health- report back on mortuaries using more water and if there is any pre treatment of wastewater from hospitals and clinics</p> <p>DWA to investigate on the existence of Water Quality Guidelines for the handling, storage and or disposal of wastewater generated at the livestock farm</p> |
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| 7. | <p>Catchment Management Agency (CMA) update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Ristic was informed by Mr Khorombi that the CMA is still on hold as there are some discussions and decisions to be taken on the number of CMA's that needs to be established. • F. Mamabolo mentioned that there are hopes that VDCEC will start to be active as the Department has appointed a Deputy Director for Institutional Establishment who will be responsible for the CMA's. | |
| 8. | <p>General</p> <p>8.1 Water Use License Applications Status Feedback was given under matters arising from previous minutes</p> <p>8.2 Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No feedback <p>8.3 5 burning issues in the Vaal dam catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non compliance of WWTW • Poor participation of stakeholders in the catchment • Unauthorized water users • Challenges that municipalities are faced with e.g. overloaded WWTW, power failure's interrupting the operation of WWTW, qualifications and experience of operators at WWTW • M. Likhetha requested the forum members to forward any of the burning issues that they might think of after the meeting to F. Mamabolo who mentioned that the issues will be discussed at the DWA management meeting. <p>8.4 Guidelines for the Inspection of WWTW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Mamabolo distributed the Guidelines for the Inspection of WWTW and explained that the guidelines assist the Water Pollution Control Officers to know what to inspect in the WWTW and also to assist the operators of WWTW to prepare for an inspection and to take corrective action where a problem is | |

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| <p>8.5</p> | <p>identified. F Mamabolo further highlighted that the guidelines are also developed as another one of the continuous initiatives that government is doing to support the municipalities.</p> <p>Water Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Likhetho wanted to know if there were any water week event plans for the Vaal dam catchment. F. Mamabolo reported that DWA has not planned anything. • Dept of health indicated that they are planning to have water week event in one of intermediate schools in the catchment; however they will need support from the forum stakeholders. • M. Likhetho mentioned that if anyone has suggestions for the Water Week he/she must send them to Karen Chetty • M. Likhetho suggested a Joint Awareness Programme even if is not done during the water week. | |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Closure M. Likhetho thanked everyone for attending and participating.</p> <p>Next meeting: 27 May 2010, DWA Offices, Deneysville, 10:00am</p> | |