



# VAAL DAM FORUM MEETING

25 MAY

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	PV	X		
8. Thys Koen– Toga Linings	GV		X	
9. Seppi Claassen – Lekwa Municipality	ML	X		
10. Punky Mohale – Dept Health – Lekwa Municipi	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	X	
14. Tefelo J Mofokeng – Dept Health Free State	TJM		X	
15. Ntsoaki S Mosikili – Dept Health Free State	NSM			
16. Zola Kutsu – DACE Mpumalanga	ZK	X		
17. Madoda Besani – Phumelela Local Municipality	MB		X	
18. Vusi Hlatshwayo – Lekwa Municipality	VH	X		
19. Carlvin Tjale – Environmental Health	CT			X
20. Ashendri Reddy – Lekwa Department Health	AR		X	
21. Thembinkosi Mavuso – Dace Mpumalanga	TMa	X		
22. Archie Thobejani – DWAF	AT			X
23. Seef Rademeyer – DWAF	SR	X		
24. Juanita van der Berg – DWAF	JvdB	X		
25. MB Makhaba – Dept Health Free State	MK	X		
26. Z G Magadla – Dept Health free State	ZM	X		
27. CN Oliphant – Dept Health free state	CO	X		
28. SN Mosikili – Dept Health Free State	SM	X		

No	Item	Action
1.	<b>WELCOME</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chairman GV welcomed everyone and asked the attendees to introduce themselves.</li> </ul>	
2.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	<p>The following apologies were noted:</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Punky Mohale (PM)</li> <li>Madoda Besani (MB)</li> <li>Korf Stoltz (KS)</li> </ul>	
	<p>Thandi Mthembu (TM) will not be in the Vaal Dam forum in the future, as she is no longer working in the Vaal Dam catchment.</p>	
3.	<b>APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few spelling errors were noted and the content of the minutes were approved.</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following additions were made to the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.2 Poultry farms in the catchment</li> <li>10.3 DWAF's National Water Resources Planning Presentation (Seef Rademeyer)</li> <li>10.4 DWAF and DEAT waste management responsibilities</li> <li>10.5 CIG – Agriculture forestry and food processing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
5.	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
5.1	<b>REPORT BACK FROM FREE STATE DEAT</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of health Free State still needs to come back with alternative dates for meeting with forum members.</li> </ul>	
6.	<b>WATER QUALITY IN THE CATCHMENT</b>	
6.1	<b>DWAF</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LM presented water quality data in graphs.</li> <li>LM reported that water quality data show increase in sulphates at Vaal river downstream of Standerton as well as on Vaal Dam at the dam wall. Although sulphates are relatively low on average the increase is a concern.</li> <li>Nitrates are generally a problem in the catchment. Concentrations of nitrates higher than the tolerable limits as are noted especially at points downstream of sewerage works discharges.</li> <li>It was also discussed that there appears to be an increasing trend in Phosphates and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) concentrations from late last year (2004).</li> <li>LM also stated that high concentrations of nitrates and phosphates are the cause of algae blooms in the catchment.</li> </ul>	

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## **6.2 RAND WATER**

- KC made a presentation on Rand Water's water quality monitoring in the catchment.
- KC highlighted that Rand Water has changed their format of water quality reporting. The new format also shows water quality in previous quarters, this makes it easier to compare the data.
- KC reported that high concentrations of Ammonia and Nitrates were noted at the sewerage works in this quarter as well as in the last quarter.
- High concentrations of COD, Conductivity (EC) and Faecal Coliforms at VDS, which is downstream of Standerton.
- Faecal Coliforms has greatly improved at Standerton sewerage works compared to the last quarter.
- At KSV, downstream of Vrede, concentrations of COD and EC are still high, however there has been some improvement from last quarter.

## **7. WATER WEEK REPORT BACK**

- LM reported that there was a water week event at Standerton.
- LM reported that there were communication problems which led to poor involvement from forum stakeholders, who were not informed in time.
- However, a group of students from one of the high schools met at the Standerton town hall, where LM and Mr Vusi Hlatswayo (VH), from the Standerton Water Services, made presentations on the Water treatment processes used in Standerton works.
- The students were also taken on a tour of the Standerton sewerage works.

## **8. REPORT BACK FROM THE VAAL DAM FORUM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

- LM reported that the committee which serves as a guide to the forum, met before the meeting.
- The committee discussed the way forward with regard to setting of Water Quality Objectives. As discussed previously, the current water quality guidelines for the catchment are too strict they need to be changed.
- It was agreed in the Technical Committee meeting that DWAF and Rand Water would meet to work on this further and report back to the forum.
- LM requested that people with monitoring data must submit this data to DWAF, so as to help with this process.
- LM also added that Municipalities, Earlybird Farm and Eskom would be asked to make submission of their monitoring data.

LM, KC,  
DM

## **9. REPORT BACK FROM THE CATCHMENT VISIT**

- LM reported that Rand Water and DWAF had a joint catchment site visit. The following areas were visited, Villiers, Vrede and Standerton.
- The following are some of the findings from this visit:
  - Villiers sewerage works had a problem with water plants at their works.
  - Villiers sewerage work discharge is downstream of the DWAF monitoring point therefore impact of this works on the river was not being picked up by DWAF's monitoring.
  - Illegal discharge of raw sewerage on land at the Vrede pump station.
  - The new Vrede sewerage works is too close to the Spruitsonderdrif river.

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## **10. GENERAL**

### **10.1 DEVELOPMENT AT THE SEEKOEIVLEI RESERVE IN MEMEL**

- DM reported that she attended a workshop in Memel, where she learned of a development that was in its construction phase, in the wetlands reserve.
- A 54 beds chalet, caravan park and an education centres were being developed in the wetland area. The concern was that this is a sensitive area and Rand Water or DWAF were not consulted.
- DM reported that after inquiry she was informed that EIA applications for this Development started in 2001 and an ROD was already issued in 2003.
- LM reported that DWAF was also not aware of this development.
- The problem could be that DWAF Free State was consulted and no information was passed on to DWAF Gauteng regional office. This has happened before, which is an internal communication problem at DWAF. LM would investigate and report back at next meeting.
- DM reported further that the development at the reserve seems to have stalled due to problems with developers.
- It was also stated that the EMP could still be used to inform the process. A copy of the ROD was required to see the conditions stipulated.
- LM said that the ROD has been requested from the DEAT National office, which issued the ROD.
- ZK added that section 21(g) of NEMA should also be taken into consideration in trying to address this problem.

### **10.2 POULTRY FARMS IN THE CATCHMENT**

- KC reported that there seems to be a lot of poultry farms being developed lately in the catchment and asked of these were related to Earlybird Farm.
- Freek Schoeman (FS) responded that Earlybird Farm is increasing production, however some of the poultry farms are actually independently owned. Earlybird would provide further information to Rand Water and DWAF on locations of farms that they own.
- KC added that the concern was that some of these poultry farms are very close to the river.
- FS also highlighted that Freeky Lyons is one of the chicken farmers that also operates in the area, they also have an abattoir in Standerton.

FS

### **10.3 DWAF NATIONAL WATER RESOURCE PLANNING**

- Seef Rademeyer (SR), apologised for not being able to present in the meeting, however he would make a presentation on DWAF's strategies in the next meeting.
- SR also reported that we must realise that the problems highlighted in the water quality reports presented by DWAF and Rand Water are linked to the bigger water quality picture in the whole water management area.
- A number of studies are in place in the water management area, looking at issues like population growth, water quality and reserves which are linked to water conservation and demand.
- SR also highlighted that it is important for all role players, major stakeholders to buy in to the DWAF strategies aimed at water conservation and demand management.

SR

### **10.4 DWAF AND DEAT WASTE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- LM reported that the municipal landfill permitting function is moving from DWAF to DEAT.
- LM added that the DEAT free state office has already taken over the function, however the

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status is not known as far as DACE Mpumalanga is concerned.

- ZK responded that there is still capacity building happening in their office, before this process is finalised.
- ZK added that DEAT national has also been requested to assist with their Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP).
- ZK also informed the meeting that Standerton has been identified as a pilot study for the development of this IWMP.

#### **10.5 CIG – AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD PACKAGING**

- ZK informed the meeting that DACE Mpumalanga is busy trying to develop an information base on farmers associations.
- ZK asked that information on farmers associations in the Mpumalanga province should be forwarded to their office. This information is required to facilitate consultation of farmers associations with regards to DACE's Hazardous Waste Management Plan.
- GV said that Mike Ludick can be contacted to help with information on farmers associations in the Mpumalanga province.

#### **10.6 NATIONAL WATER RESOURCE STRATEGY**

- The Meeting was informed that the National Water Resource Strategy has been finalised and published. Copies are available free of charge from DWAF.
- LM was asked to get copies to distribute in next meeting.

LM

#### **10.7 VENUE OF FORUM MEETINGS**

- It was suggested that the next forum meeting should be held at a different venue.
- TM suggested that the next meeting can be held at the Vaal Dam. LM was asked to arrange.

#### **11. POLLUTION INCIDENTS**

- KC reported that there is an abattoir in the Wilge catchment, which illegally disposes of blood in a river. This activity impacts on the Vaal Dam water quality.
- KC added that Rand Water and DWAF will be visiting the site again in June 2005.

KC

#### **12. CLOSURE**

- The meeting was closed at 12h05. Date for the next meeting is the 24 August 2005, venue for next meeting to be advised.
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