



No	Item	Action
1.	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Surprise Lehlake (SL) welcomed everyone to the forum meeting and requested everyone to introduce themselves.</li> </ul>	Chairperson
2.	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the attendees introduced themselves.</li> </ul>	All
3.	<b>Apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicolene Van der Walt-Randwater</li> <li>• Irene Main –Save the Vaal</li> <li>• Nomvula Modumo-FDDM</li> <li>• Nomasonto Nsibande-Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</li> <li>• Zanele Ngobeni- Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</li> </ul>	All
4	<b>Corrections of the previous minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacques Jaksfkvan Vuureen (JJ) – said that on point no 4 regarding Mpumalanga Samantha was supposed to present but she was not available and VQA could not present because he did not attend the previous meeting</li> <li>• Phillemon Shibambo(PS) asked his name to be corrected -Point no 4 bullet no 6 correct Phillimon to Phillemon</li> <li>• On Point no 6.6 Luvuyo Nqelenga (LN) said that it must be corrected to be non-respond to notices/directives not for attendance</li> <li>• PS said that the issue for non-attendance it was tasked for Vaal proto CMA- Florah not CME they issue notices and directives and other investigations</li> <li>• Point 7 bullet no 1 spacing between Moshia Legodi</li> <li>• Chairperson corrected numbering from 14 to 13</li> </ul>	All
5	<b>Matters arising from the previous meeting (24 November 2016).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florah Mamabolo (FM) on item 5.1 she tried to find someone to come and present unfortunately their schedule was full we will organise for next forum meeting</li> <li>• PS said that on Page 1 no.4 bullet no 3 just wanted to check if the spot check was done</li> <li>• FM said that it was not done unfortunately and it was agreed</li> </ul>	All

that next sampling it will be done

- PS said that the action will stand for next forum meeting
- PS said that item no 4 bullet no 7 chairperson said that the letters should be written to municipal managers requesting representatives
- FM said that the letters were written and they were sent to municipal managers and it was sent less than a month
- PS asked how the letters were sent
  
- FM said that it was emailed and via post
- JJ said that is there any way in a position to demand attendance from municipalities or just a friendly request, asked if the invitation was friendly and cant the department be harsh on the reminder
- FM said that it was friendly and municipalities cannot be forced to attend, all water users must attend forum meetings
- Chairperson said that JJ is from Villiers Qalabotjha Action (VQA) they are assisting in raising concerns for the community that is why he is trying to get a straight point on how to get them in making an action
- Reveck (RH) wanted to know if Villiers has an authorisation
- Villiers and Cornelia WWTW do not have Water Use Licence
- LM said that on the last forum meeting Mr Matseba said that we first write those letters then if the situation gets worse it will be escalated to the DG
- PS said that if they have a Water Use Licence (WUL) they can be forced to attend forum meeting because there is a condition in a Water Use Licence that said that they must be part of the Forum meeting, if they have a WUL and they don't attend they can be issued with a Directive to force them to attend forum meeting
- Chairperson said that the unfortunate part is that they are not licenced but it doesn't mean nothing cannot be done
- PS said that it can be communicated from Principal to DG to Minister
- Chairperson said that Jacques(JJ) is a concerned resident there's nothing that cannot be done there are DWS representatives to assist and said that Jacques can pick up any DWS official from the attendance register to communicate with.
- JJ said that it can be valuable to them
- FM asked if JJ has a relation to Mafube municipality
- JJ said that Mafube municipality is dysfunctional and offices have being closed for two weeks and telephones have been disconnected since last year September nothing is happening that is why they are concerned about the Waste Water Treatment Works
- Chairperson said that Jacques effort is appreciated and Rand

Water is sampling

- Nceba Ketelo(NK) said that can they get an indication on municipalities which are available and also asked how is the relationship between district and Local municipality, how is the arrangement to ensure that the Fezile Dabi play a vital role to ensure that their local municipality attends
- NK- said that this are operational meetings whereby we are discussing the problems for instance Villiers, Frankford, etc
- Chairperson – said that that Nceba is raising a good question as a district there are some responsibilities they must carry, the locals are not attending cant the district do something about it maybe negotiate with the head of the locals.
  
- JJ said that maybe he can help on that as on page 6 number 7.9 it shows that there were some effort from Fezile Dabi as it state that Mr Sam was struggling to get in touch with water quality manager at Mafube municipality regarding non-compliance they are just not cooperating at all
- Chairperson – said that Department of Water and Sanitation(DWS) must intervene must do something
- NK- said that in the previous minister said that 8% must go to operations and maintenance and if the task team is formed it will ensure that the operation and maintenance money are used only for that and nothing else
- NK – we are checking the whole system , these processes must continue parallel and it must be a resolution of Vaal dam forum that we are requesting that this task team must be formed and don't know how it will be communicated to the Department
- FM said that as Thya proposed that it must come from the DG maybe we can task someone from the National office because the DG is from the National office
- Eunice Nematudi (EN) asked if the proposed task team looking at the Vaal only.
- RH said that –the whole country, each management area,
- PS- as way forward, FM and Eunice as she is a lead to the National office, Matseba mentioned that the Minister MEC task team it was the first launch in Limpopo where our minister met all the MECs regarding Human settlement or COGTA, Matseba mentioned that all the matters can be reported to their office so that it can be escalated to Minister when she meet with COGTA she will mention all the issues then COGTA will take it to the Mayors and Municipal manager, FM and Eunice will take the issues to Matseba to the DG via Minister then they will be discussed with the MINMEC forums
- EN- asked if she can include water services
- Thya Pather(TP) said that we must start with the Vaal task team
- Simon Mporetji (SM) said that the task team be limited to the

	<p>problems as presented in the Rand Water and DWS report and the other forums can do the same</p>	
5.	<p><b>Additions to the Agenda</b>  5.1 DWS Gauteng cellphones  5.2 Gillnetting</p>	
6.	<p><b>Items for discussions</b>  <b>Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment</b>  <b>6.1 Water Quality Report – Rand Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SM presented the water quality for Rand Water from 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017, reported that looking at the report the water quality is not changing and major problem is the nitrates which are contributed by discharges from municipal Waste Water Treatment Works</li> <li>• He said that the representative from Vrede can explain what’s happening in their WWTWs about the high level of nitrates throughout the year</li> <li>• He reported that they take sample above the discharge point so the impact will be Qalabotjha and any discharges from their manholes or broken sewer lines, they don’t take samples below the discharge point</li> <li>• Namahadi WWTWs and Frankfort oxidation pond, pump station at Frankfort tranfers effluent into their outfall line, it has not been functional for more than a year that means they discharge raw sewage, this WWTWs are required by law to comply whether they have a licence or not</li> <li>• All WWTWs are not complying with Ammonia and E-coli parameters</li> <li>• JJ said that in dry conditions at Villiers the river was extremely low and they had a good rain in December on wards and thought that having good rain will have flushed away and that the water quality will have improved</li> <li>• Nk said that looking at his notes of the previous meeting it seems there is no change and the main contributors meeting after meeting are the WWTWs and that is very concerning when there is this situation and there is no action by the contributors and on top of that there is no seriousness from their side to come and explain what is happening and where can we intervene as this forum is not about fighting it is meant to assist each other to have improved water quality. In the previous meeting it was said that they want to see action plans from municipalities to tell the forum about what are they doing to solve all this problems</li> <li>• He mentioned that a point from Afri forum was that government is responsible for the pollution in our rivers</li> </ul>	

because 4200 ML of sewer is flowing in our rivers on daily basis perception from concerned group if ever municipalities are not coming and explaining or giving action plans that it is not the way it is and we as the Department we are supposed to answer all these questions now and then not saying the problem for municipality it is a problem for all of us in the forum, we need to work hand in hand because agriculture and children are being affected and CMEs are issuing Directives

## **6.2 DWS -Gauteng**

- Betty Nakene(BN) said that she went through the results for Vaal dam catchment, first it was Standerton WWTWs it was complying with the results but the plant is not complying and the results from January until March it was discovered that Deneysville, Villiers and Orangeville was complying but the plants are not complying, there is a challenge with the Laboratory (CSIR) next sampling we will do spot check with CSIR as the results are misleading us
- SM said that the problem may not be with the person doing the analysis the results may be correct it happened to Rand Water, the person who was taking samples in Standerton was taking raw sewage but it was complying, after it went through all the processes at the outlet
- Pamela Mabece (PM) said that she wanted to know the reason for no access during monitoring
- BN said that the challenge with the pumps was that they were not pumping sewage to the plant
- SM asked what about at Vrede?
- BN- requested contact details of responsible officer as I have a problem to access the plant the gate is always locked and there is no one around unlike other WWTWs the gates are always open even if there is no one around
- SM- if you find out that there is no flow what happens
- BN said that she went to the pump station and found that there is overflow
- RH asked where are the samples taken
- BN replied that at the discharge point at the plant
- RH said that the last time he went to Deneysville they said they are not using any pipeline, they told him that they are pumping from the plant into the quarry and the issue of not getting enough flow coming in and the issue of the pump station is dry
- Chairperson – asked the lady from Eskom to allow them to utilize the name Eskom sewage plant
- PM said that- unfortunately when it is presented in other media it might create confusion even if they put it in brackets

## **6.3 DWS - Free State**

No representative

#### **6.4 DWS - Mpumalanga**

- Mr BJ Mashiane(BJM) reported about their support to Lekwa municipality.DWS sent confirmation to Lekwa q LM of R30 million.
- Lekwa LM will have to give DWS the ToR and BP for approval.
- Lekwa is overloaded.
- Last financial year R20 million was transferred.
- Biofilter is fixed by DWS National Office NWIR unit.
- DWS Mpumalanga will fix what NWIR did not fix.

#### **6.5 DWS - Solid Waste Management**

- **Eskom Grootvlei Power Station solid waste inspection to be reported next forum**
- According to Midvaal Landfill sites permit, there must be a cut off trench to protect water resource but it is not there. Site inspection will be conducted.
- RH said that Vaal Marina landfill site is a risk to the Vaal dam and water flows to the direction of the dam, landfill site is illegal and the municipality is trying to legalize it, DEA licenced it but used old conditions on how it should be managed.
- Villiers landfill site will also be inspected.
- JJ asked if the landfill site is licenced by DWS, and seen that Villiers landfill site has gone out to tender for improvement or rehabilitation
- TP said that the licence was issued to the landfill site, licence expired.Chairperson reported that task team can work in the long run.
- RH reported that Grootdraai forum developed a task team which failed when municipalities stopped attending.
- RH supported the idea for wastewater treatment works task team top level to make it happen unfortunately people who are coming to the forum are not the one who are making it happen
- NK said that in the process we need to involve COGTA as municipalities are under COGTA ; our DG (DWS) interact with the DG of COGTA
- EN said that there will be a joint audit of DWS and DEA that targets problematic WWTWs in the Vaal river, Standerton was identified with DEA, the findings of the joint audit with DEA, they will communicate with Ministers then they will

	<p>communicate with COGTA and SALGA . other problematic WWTW's maybe identified next year after findings of the audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson asked if the audit report will be finalised by the end of this year</li> <li>• EN said that the outcome will be discussed by January 2018 with DG, COGTA and SALGA, maybe next year they will identify more from Vaal or Olifants mostly they are looking at problematic catchments which have problems with WWTWs.</li> <li>• RH said that at Standerton WWTWs about two years back everything was fine, now it has gone back to the poor state, it is not all about money because if it is not managed properly the problem is sludge management</li> </ul> <p>NK said that the previous Finance Minister said that 8% must go to operations and maintenance. Task team must make sure that the O and M money is ringfenced.</p> <p><b>6.6 CME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LN said that he will report under compliance monitoring, he reported that last year they did audit to the Orangeville WWTWs in September 2016 non-compliance letter was issued to the municipality to come up with action plan, first week of April they came back with a representation, the recommendation was reviewed and it was sent to municipality for implementation and their action plan will be monitored</li> <li>• Notification letter was sent to Deneysville WWTWs and they will be going there first week of June for compliance audit</li> <li>• RH asked if it is possible to share results/audit report with the forum</li> <li>• LN said that it is a long process it can be done via legal services</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders)</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Phumelela Municipality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zuzumuzi Tshabalala (ZT) reported that there is non-compliance with Ammonia and COD due to construction on site that is funded by DWS National Office. He said that they have a pumping problem, refurbishing two pump stations which are Extension 3 and Thembalihle that pump water from town and township to the plant, the refurbishment and upgrade was completed last year due to volume from town and township as the pump station are under refurbishment nothing goes to the plant. Ever since they started with the upgrade there was no flow going into the plant since 2015.</li> <li>• RH said that downstream of Vrede, the water quality especially of Ammonia in the past years was not complying due to sewage going to the river.</li> </ul>	

- Chairperson said that Phumelela local municipality was advised to use granular and asked if they are taking samples.
- ZT replied that they don't do water quality sampling.
- NK asked for how long will people stamp on the raw sewage
- ZT said that they were told it will take six months for the upgrade
- Chairperson said that the reason they recommended the tablets were for safety reasons you can't directly dose chlorine into the stream.
- RH asked how effective is the chlorine to raw sewage as it has very high suspended solids, they rather save money on the plant.
- Chairperson said that it needs to be at least 80% purified water to be effective, advised them to save money and push it to the project to finish with the upgrade, need 50% of the operation of the plant
- SM in the event of refurbishment how fast can they deal with sewage that is being generated, and did they report to DWS that they are discharging raw sewage into the river
- FM said that regulation team can issue a notice as they say they have a challenge to get respond from municipality and she also asked whether the funding is from DWS national
- RH said that the moment raw sewage gets into the river it is a risk to the environment. We don't need policy we need solution
- Chairperson said that he blames the planning people, they should have thought by the time they start with the upgrade of the pump station what will happen to the raw sewage maybe building the pump station next to the old one while it still functions, can't they put mobile pump to assist pumping raw sewage to the plant and asked the distance from the plant to the pump station
- ZT said that he will mention it to the contractor, the distance from the plant to the pump station is 5km
- NK said that we need proper visit to the plant, head office, provincial office, Rand Water, project manager and the municipality must form part of the inspection.
- Chairperson said that it is not to nail the municipality it is to see as the purpose of the forum is to identify the problem, asked what is the next step and who do we allocate for this action.
- NK said that the relevant person is Florah. She can organise stakeholders that were counted and have the site visit by next week, where is the project manager so that we can assist FM, ZT must send name and numbers of the project manager
- FM asked if next week is not short notice, tomorrow she can send dates
- Chairperson it was supposed to be done as in yesterday

- NK said that the chief director of the water service regulation is Lerato Mokwena, Regional Head, Rand Water it will be Reveck and Simon, enforcement is Luvuyo
- PS said that they have been struggling to get hold of Phumelela official to attend the forum even from Wilge forum there was no one from Phumelela LM.

## **7.2 Lekwa Municipality**

no representative

## **7.3 Metsimaholo Municipality**

- No representative

## **7.4 Mafube Municipality**

- No representative; (JJ) from Villiers Qalabotjha Action (VQA) reported.
- JJ said that the refurbishment at Qalabotjha WWTWs was done November 2016, millions was spent by DWS, what was concerning it is that no training was offered by DWS to help operators.,
- all VQA want is for the river to be clean to promote tourism to their area and for their children to swim in the rivers, and doesn't seem to have plans in place to train the staff
- In Villiers they are close to the Silos, in 2009 the pipe was removed,
- Two(2) new pump stations where installed by DWS but due to lack of money to connect electricity the pumps are spilling raw effluent into the stream that flow down into the Vaal river, it also flows into the grain silos where export wheat is stored, the management of the silos have pump out sewage and last silos is unusable as it is slightly contaminated
- He believes the situation is the same as at Frankford, do DWS have right to take away responsibility from municipality as they unable to handle it and water supply side, they have new drinking treatment works but the quality is from bad to extremely bad
- JJ – can the staff at the treatment plants be awarded certificate and price for best managed site
- NK said that they have certificates programme however there are some delays in doing assessments for green drop and blue drop, we are in a process of ensuring that we speed up the process of the assessment to be conducted.
- But cannot give the time line but what I know is that lots of work has been done at the background to ensure that they start the certification programme.

- Chairperson asked if DWS is aware of the wasteful expenditure by providing Mafube municipality with new pump station but they can't provide electricity for the pump station to function well
- LN said that in the absence of the DWS Free State office, they have been doing some checks and last year there was a task team and they were part of it and they were also looking at their Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funding to assist all the municipalities same as Mpumalanga as they are doing on their site due to their lack of attending we can look at the issue of connection because all the infrastructure is just a connection
- LN can be tasked to check with the Free State office on how far are they.
- JJ said that Mafube LM is under administration, they want COGTA national to intervene.
- LN said that if COGTA local cannot then they need to go National, will also check with the relevant person what are the steps, what was done so far in terms of taking care of the treatment plant and measures so that sewerage does not go downstream.
- Chairperson said that Jacques must visit regularly and will be copied in all the communications and on the next forum meeting he will get feedback on how far did the DWS go on finding whats causing the problem that side in this short period of three months DWS must do something.
- NK- said that JJ must keep in contact with FM and LN and that JJ must be added as stakeholder not for Mafube LM.

#### **7.5 Goldi**

- Changed aeration on the dams and since it was changed COD improved.
- identified more positions to put GPS coordinates for sampling purpose to DWS

#### **7.6 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station**

- PM said that they got access to the Grootvlei WWTW plant, the pumps were bought and installed.They have sludge management issue
- She said that the staff needs to be trained need DWS to assist them, invested much money to refurbish the plant to work and if the skills are not there it will go back to the poor state and we still have the opportunity to save it if the staff is trained and proper management.

- Chairperson said that Dipaleseng LM took their operators up to NQF 3 and also from Grootvlei were trained.
- PM said that they did inspection on their lines from treatment facility they have in Vaal marina that is taking the water to the station and realized that there are couple of farmers that are taking from the line and it is a challenge
- Chairperson asked how long did the refurbishment took, did you fix the PLC system
- PM replied that three months, and they fixed everything
- NK asked if Eskom can't invest in training the staff in the plant.
- PM said that they have the challenge Dipaleseng is not coming to the party and we already invested lots of money and don't mind training them but there are lots of politics that are happening in the municipality and are making difficult for ESKOM
- Chairperson said that DWS is here to assist

#### **7.7 Dipaleseng Municipality**

- No representative.

#### **7.8 Midvaal LM**

- Chairperson said that he cannot report they handed the plant for operation and maintenance to Tecrover and there were issues of expiry of contract since February 2017 and there was no proper management of the whole systems still waiting to get Mr Martin which he gave the details to Nicolene last time and will try to communicate with him, their tender was extended again they will continue running the plant and the results shows that the plant is improving.
- He promised that on the next forum meeting he will bring presentation including the upgrade of Memello and bulk sewer, I will speak to Duncan and get the whole information about the upgrade and everything that is happening at Vaal Marina, and will also report on the technical and upgrade site
- RH asked about the balancing dam when will it be completed
- Chairperson said that they had an issue with the contractor he didn't construct it well so he was chased to get competent supplier to do the lining properly and hopefully in July there will be new contractor to line the balancing dam.
- RH asked about the township

- Chairperson said that he is not sure that is why he said he will go back and get more information because he remember there was an issue with the landowner and the municipality, he said they can lay a pipe through his farm and he can't sell the land to the municipality and also the department is intervening in getting the land issue sorted out

**7.9 FezileDabi DM**

Sam Kotsoane (SK) said they intervened at Mafube municipality about sampling and last week on the 10<sup>th</sup> May they took some samples from the network and they were complying, there were no operators at the plants cornelia, Villiera and Frankford as there was strike  
NK asked if that was the only intervention by the district

SK said that they intervened because there was a diarrhoea problem

PS said that the request from the previous meeting was that he must bring the minutes of the meeting between FezileDabi and local municipality.

SK said that he must follow protocol because they said it is confidential, the letter must be written to the Municipal manager, they are also not allowed to present the water quality results

**7.10 Gert Sibande DM**

No representative

**7.11 SAVE the Vaal**

- No representative

8

**Water Use License Status**

No	Applicant	Water uses	Application date	Status
3	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited: Grootvlei Power Station – PV Solar Facility- (Amendment)	21(c) and (i)	08 September 2015	Presented to WUAAAC

- BN- Eskom Grootvlei Power Station amendment will be presented to WUAAAC in the next sitting
- SM asked BN to prepare a table for all the activities for

	<p>WWTWs showing which one has a licence and not Chairperson said that it will assist them to have an idea on how many municipalities have applied and how many treatment works in that area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JJ asked how long is the Water Use Licence valid for , so it is not something that can be reviewed every year</li> <li>• FM said that it depends it can be even valid for 20 years maximum is forty years</li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>Pollution Incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BN reported that pollution incident from Refengkgotso location was reported and attended on 25 April 2017, it was a manhole overflow it was happening for months and they reported it but they are not getting any respond from supply chain section</li> <li>• LN said that it has being long since April it should be escalated to Matseba, it should be taken to the Municipal manager Chairperson supported it and said that because there are people who are doing pipe jetting they can just jet the line and does not think it is a costly operation</li> <li>• BN mentioned that at the pump station the other pump is taken for maintenance and the other one is cracked</li> <li>• There is no pump that is functioning?</li> </ul>	All
10	<p><b>CMA Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FM said that there is no movement there were some issues with labour challenges of people who are supposed to be referred to CMA the outcome of the meeting was supposed to be taken to the Minister but we are still awaiting the respond from the Minister</li> </ul>	FM
11	<p><b>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DWS Gauteng office cell phones are not working, there are challenges between DWS and MTN and don't know when will the matter be resolved only communication will be via emails or landlines.</li> <li>• BJM said that they have the same challenge in Mpumalanga</li> <li>• RH said that during sampling they discovered gillnetting, found two gillnet not sure if the department is aware of illegal issues</li> <li>• LN said that it is the mandate of Department of Environmental Affairs, the report can be forwarded to LN or Mr Mogale and can</li> </ul>	

	<p>be escalated to the relevant people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJM said that Lekwa Local Municipality was advised to contact COGTA to assist in uploading their water quality results on Green Drop System (GDS)</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting 24 August 2017</p>	All
14	<p><b>Closure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned at 13H00.</li> </ul>	Chairperson