



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
 27 August 2015
 DWA Offices, Deneysville
 10:00 – 13:00

No	Item	Action
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Hariram welcomed everyone to the forum meeting and requested everyone to introduce themselves. 	Chairperson
2.	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the attendees introduced themselves. 	All
3.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomasonto Nsibande – Eskom • Nokukhanya Radebe – Mafube • Kathy Manten – Deneysville Resident • Boitumelo Sejamoholo – DWS – Head Office • Dumisani Mchunu – DWS : FS 	All
4.	Minutes of the previous meeting. Corrections. (28 May 2015). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E Matseba said the statement under 7.1 is in correct. DWS has been doing routine monitoring for specific sites only for the past two years with RQS however they have not been presenting the results at the forum meeting due to delays from service provider (RQS). They have online monitoring occurring. This monitoring was unknown to the forum as none of this information was being shared in absence of the routine monitoring. 	
5.	Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed per agenda. 	
6. 6.1 6.2 6.3	Additions to the Agenda 6.1 Climate change 6.2 Resource Quality Objective. 6.3 Green drop	All

<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> <p>7.5</p>	<p>Items for discussions</p> <p>Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment – DWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWS reported that long term monitoring contract has been approved by DDG. Monitoring results will hopefully be presented in the next meeting. <p>Water Quality Report – Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rand Water presented water quality status with reference to the problematic areas. • Most of the variables were complying except for alkalinity, nitrate and COD the past three months. • WWTW – there were non – compliances of ammonia, COD and E – Coli the past three months. <p>DWS Free State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p>DWS Mpumalanga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p>DWS Solid Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Johnson reported that they are no major issues in the catchment. • SAVE mentioned that in the previous forum meeting, DWS was requested to assist in the finding out the license conditions for the Vaal Marina landfill site. • N Malise answered that Dept of Environmental Affairs is responsible for landfill sites. • SAVE the Vaal will request conditions of Vaal Marina landfill site license from Dept of Environmental affairs. SAVE has previously written to the GDARD to no avail. Feedback will be given in the next meeting. An official from DWS gave the following address for licenses that have been issued and the conditions that are attached to such licenses: http://www.sawic.environment.gov.za/. SAVE would go into the site and look for the relevant license conditions. • N Malise reported that Dept of Environmental affairs have a project to license municipality landfill sites in the country. Dept of Environmental affairs and the municipality have a list of all landfill sites that need to be licensed. Vaal dam catchment landfill sites are not included in that list. • SAVE wanted to know what criterion was used to select the landfill site that must be licensed and queried what was happening to the Deneysville / Refenggotso landfill site. • N Malise requested SAVE to engage with Free State Dept of Environmental affairs about this matter. 	<p>SAVE</p>
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7.6	DWS Mpumalanga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing to report 	
7.7	CME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CME have issued Metsimoholo municipality with a pre-directive regarding the pipeline that was illegal installed at Deneysville. The project to install the pipeline has been stopped. 	T Johnson
8 8.1 8.2 8.3	Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders) Phumelela Municipality <i>Vrede:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WWTW - Clarifier not functional due to cable theft. They are planning to employ securities. DWS mentioned that Vrede and Warden WWTW were refurbished. Due to cable theft and vandalism Vrede WWTW is not functional. SAVE (vaaldam) stated that the Municipality is to take responsibility for their plant as DWS could not continually fund Municipalities where they did not take the necessary security measures. Municipality need to strengthen security. <i>Memel Oxidation Ponds :</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is functional. Lekwa Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative reported that most of the pump stations are functional except for Rooikoppen pump station where they have experienced vandalism and the pump is overflowing. Rand Water is assisting Lekwa Municipality in terms of refurbishment of the pumps for these pump stations. R Hariram mentioned that he will find out from their office how Rand water is going to assist the Municipality. Feedback will be given in the next meeting. The chairperson indicated that Standerton WWTW – is operational. SAVE wanted to know if Lekwa Municipality has a standby pump for their pump stations. Representative answered that Rand Water has removed both pumps for refurbishment. They have strengthened security at the WWTWs in order to address issue of vandalism and theft. Metsimaholo Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of Deneysville WWTW – representative mentioned that the municipality is engaging with Dept of Housing and DWS in terms of getting funding to upgrade Deneysville WWTW. Municipal representative informed the forum of a Public Participation meeting concerning the pipeline which was going to 	R Hariram

take place on the 27 August 2015. None of the forum members of residents of Deneysville were aware of this. The Metsimaholo representative advised later in the meeting that the public participation meeting had been postponed to a later date. There is obviously an issue of the municipality in communicating with the residents of the town. There is a lot of resistance to the new pipeline by the local community and affected stakeholders due to concerns of algal problems in the specific bay of the dam.

- The municipality also indicated that they are still trying to find out how conservancy tanks can assist whenever there is load shedding.
- E Matseba mentioned that in terms of load shedding the municipality need to have emergency dams in order to contain the flow. As far as he was aware the dams were supposed to be able to hold effluent for 24 hours.
- Metsimaholo will liaise with DWS on this matter and feedback will be given in the next meeting.
- The forum indicated that Metsimaholo municipality is not addressing water quality issues that are reported by the Community members in Deneysville and Refengkgotso to them. SAVE stated that they will continue to report pollution incidents to all channels. Reason being that the municipality is not addressing the communities' issues that are reported to them in time. These issues have been ongoing since 2010 with no improvement whatsoever. If it was not for the media, nothing would have been done to correct this unacceptable matter in this area. These pollution incidents were not just sewage spills but ongoing pollution of the whole area including the Vaal Dam and Vaal River.
- Metsimaholo responded that Metsimaholo is addressing issues that are reported to the municipalities. Clearly they correct individuals were not available until the last few months when they were employed. This dispute was resolved by the chairman by asking relevant parties to exchange contact details so that the correct individuals within the municipality can be contacted.
- The chairperson said the forum need to follow the right procedure in terms of reporting pollution incidents in order to improve water quality at Vaal Dam. Pollution incidents must be reported to the municipality and after the report must be compiled and send to DWS with correct information. Municipalities must be given enough time to address issues. Stakeholders must not rush to involve media when there are pollution incidents or spillages.
- The chairperson also indicated that he has been at the municipality plant. There is some improvement however DWS must assist the municipality in terms of advice of how to manage the over laden waste water works. In the case of the deneysville plant treated/partially treated effluent was being diverted to a quarry to prevent the maturation pond from overflowing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save encouraged DWS to work with the Department of Human Settlements and Rural Development as a matter of urgency. Developments were being allowed to proceed without the necessary upgrading of the WWTW Plants and infrastructure which resulted in these pollution issues arising. The Municipalities did not have the necessary funding to upgrade these plants and these Departments must budget for the upgrading of the infrastructure as well, and not just for houses. 	
8.4	<p>Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative The Chairperson stated that he was concerned at the quality of effluent that was emanating from the Villiers Abattoir. 	
8.5	<p>Goldi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative reported that they are busy commissioning their Waste water management plant. 	
8.6	<p>Grootvlei Power Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative reported that due to illegal dumping manholes are blocked. They have been sending communications to Dipaleseng municipality in order to arrange a meeting and discuss how they can address this matter. DWS Free State mentioned that they will invite Dipaleseng municipality in the next meeting. Dipaleseng – they have bypassed their aerators tank. Raw sewage is going directly to the environment. Mr. Botha, the farmer, is complaining about the raw sewage that is flowing onto his farm land. This matter had been ongoing for more than 4 years and Eskom had even offered to upgrade and take over the plant at their cost, but that the municipality still had not met with Eskom even though they had been requested to do so on numerous occasions. DWS Water Sector support indicated that they are engaging with Dipaleseng regarding their challenges. Progress report will be given to forum meetings. The chairperson suggested that if DWS water sector support is failing DWS CME must assist. 	
8.7	<p>Dipaleseng Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative 	
8.8	<p>Midvaal LM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Representative 	
8.9	<p>Fezile Dabi DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mafube WWTW – Fezile Dabi DM and DWS had an inspection at 	

<p>8.10</p> <p>8.11</p>	<p>Mafube WWTW the situation is still terrible. Spillages of manholes still continuing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mafube municipality is busy upgrading the pump station. <p>Gert Sibande DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative. <p>SAVE the Vaal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAVE the Vaal presented videos and photos that showed areas that are affected due to over capacity WWTW Plants and over flowing pump stations for Deneysville /Refenkgekotso, Oranjeville and Frankfort in the Vaal Dam catchment. There was also continual tripping of electricity at the Misty Bay, Banana Bay, Sunset Cove and Marina Letata pump stations in Vaal Marina resulting in sewage being discharged into Vaal Dam. Noticeable algae were blooming along the shores of Misty Bay. SAVE stated that the Metsimaholo and Midvaal Municipalities have not conducted, and later then just applied for a rectification of the matter without first following the necessary procedures. This was evidenced by the Municipality Pipeline Project, the Midvaal Fire Station and the Midvaal Mamello Pipeline outfall sewer network. It was stated that DWS are not adhering to the development plan of Vaal Dam and the EIA process. DWS replied that not all developments will be assessed the same and each application if different. • Save stated that a Complex known as “The Anchorage” in the Vaal Marina area, did not have a ‘package plant’ that was big enough to treat the effluent for 104 units. In fact this complex had less capacity than ‘Burgandy Bay Complex’ which had only 14 units. DWS must investigate as this will pose a risk to the Vaal Dam water quality once all units had been sold and occupied. • Save also mentioned that the Dept. of Environmental Affairs had issued a license to commercially fish in the Vaal Dam. The fish were being shocked for 4-5 minutes and then netted and taken to Eikenhof for processing. It was stated that in terms of the Vaal Dam Development Guide Plan commercial fishing was only allowed to take place below the bridge in Oranjeville. A 55 meter jetty had been installed in the Vaal Dam without authorisation, a Bay had been cordoned off and containers had been placed in the flood line also without authorisation. This area is a recreational and residential area- • Save stated that they wanted to work with the Municipalities, but that this could not take place until the Municipalities are willing to collaborate. Save had in the past written to Treasury and other Government Departments to assist with funding for the upgrading of WWTWs and have been very successful. 	
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9	<p>Water Use License</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaal Marina WWTW – issued. Save questioned how this could have been issued as the plant was too close to the Vaal Dam, the plant was antiquated, expensive to fix, under capacity in peak season and not compliant. The Mamello Community was being relocated and initially 650 RDP homes were going to be built, but long term would see 2000 homes being built all discharging to the existing plant. The Department of Human Settlements and DWS should contribute towards a new plant being built as the Municipality does not have the funding to build a new plant. • Sanral WULA – issued • Earlybird Farm WULA – it was presented and differed for site inspection. • Gauteng Department of Human Settlement WULA – The application will be merged as agreed at the meeting. • Mamello development – The Department is still waiting for a new WULA. SAVE stated that the Municipality installed most of the pipeline already without following the Public Participation process and has now applied for a rectification of same. Metsimoholo Local Municipality (Oranjeville WWTW) – issued. • Metsimoholo Local Municipality (Deneysville WWTW) – issued. • Mafube Local Municipality (Villiers WWTW) – waiting for outstanding information. • Mafube Local Municipality (Cornelia WWTW) – waiting for outstanding information. • Vaal Marina Fire Station – issued. Again SAVE stated that this should not have been approved. It is in a wetland and the buffer zone of the Vaal Dam. DWS mentioned that SAVE can appeal the license. • Rand Water (GA) – issued • Eskom Grootvlei – ready for quality check. 	
10	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standerton Area – a recent complaint alleging that wastewater overflowing from various manholes was reported to Gauteng Office by Rand Water on the 06 August 2015. A notice will be issued to the Municipality. • Pump Station at Rooikoppen – is not working and is discharging wastewater into the river. The operator at the plant said that it has been several months that the pump station is not working and the municipality is aware of it. • Taaljaard Pump Station – is also overflowing into the unknown stream which is tributary of Vaal River. • Deneysville WWTW – an incident reported on the 21st of July 2015, where the final influent form Deneysville WWTWs was overflowing from the last pond to landfill site, access road and surrounding environment. The manhole on the site of the graveyard was overflowing; causing pooling of wastewater on the environment. There have been ongoing spillages and ongoing flowing of raw effluent in this area due to the over laden plant. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final effluent of Orangeville WWTWs is flowing into the Vaal Dam. Directive was issued on the 24 July 2015 and a business plan was sent to DWS by the municipality. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VKB – there was a pollution incident on the 25 August 2015 whereby the drain overflow to the stream which support Vaal River. DWS is busy investigating this matter feedback will be given in the next meeting. 	DWS
11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All comments have been consolidated. The gazeting might be finalized in two months time. 	DWS
12	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p>	
12.1	<p>Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposing signals are shown at individual stations for precipitation, with a rough distinction between increased rainfall in the west and decreased rainfall in the east in DJF (December January February). General tendency for decreased precipitation in MAM (March April May). Decrease in rain days in MAM (March April May) and in annual mean of about 6 and 13 days, respectively, are seen over the 50 year period. Possible adaption solutions are awareness and communication, risk and vulnerability assessment, integrated water resource planning and infrastructure planning, Water conservation and demand management, Resource management and protection. 	
12.2	<p>Resource Quality Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Water Act (NWA) (No. 36 of 1998) aims to ensure the sustainable use of water resources for the benefit of all users. To achieve this, the act prescribes a number of measures : Significant water resources have to be classified i.e. the vision for the water resources and the management classes have to be set. Ecological reserve which provides for the ecological requirements has to be determined. Resource Quality Objectives which give effect to the management Classes, have to be determined. Once RQOs are set, they will be binding on all authorities/institutions when exercising any power or performing any duty under the NWA. Users are not required to meet license conditions. Catchment manager will be required to meet RQOs: Stakeholders are requested to submit written comments on proposed water resource classes and resource quality objectives by 17 September 2015 to : Director: Water Resource Classification Attention: Ms Shane 	

	Naidoo: Department of Water and Sanitation. Zwamadaka Building 185 Francis Baard Street: Private Bag x313 Pretoria 0001. Email: naidooshane@dws.gov.za fax 012 336 6712.	
12.3	<p>Green drop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Water services authorities (WSA or municipalities) discharging into the Vaal System, including ESKOM as a WSP under Dipaleseng LM. • 6 Waste water treatment works (WWTW) assessed in the municipal sector for 2013 have an impact on the Vaal River and Vaal Dam as they are very poor performing. • Reduce cumulative risk rating per plant. ?? • Prioritize wwtw with no entitlement with WSAs to ensure data submission. ?? 	
13	<p>Next Meetings</p> <p>26 November 2015 DWA Offices, Deneysville</p>	All
14	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chairperson thanked everyone for participating and the meeting adjourned at 13H00. 	R Hariram