

VAAL DAM ESERVOIR FORUM MEETING:

Date: 28 APRIL 2004

Venue: STANDERTON (Earlybird Social Club)

VDR FORUM MEMBERS		Present	Absent With Apologies	Absent Without Apologies
Andre Cronje – Metsimaholo LA	AC			X
Didi Masoabi – Rand Water	DM			X
Emmanuel Moenza – Seme Municipality	EM			X
Francois Koegelenberg – Agric	FC			X
Freek Schoemaan – Earlybird	FS			X
Gideon Vosloo	GV	X		
Thys Koen – Toga Linings	TK	X		
Korf Stoltz – Earlybird	KS	X		
Louis Makhubele – DWAF	LM	X		
Mike Ludick – Mpumalanga Agric	ML	X		
Nomfundo Mhlongo – Nestle	NM	X		
Seppi Claassen – Lekwa Municipality	SC	X		
Thabo Moloi – DWAF	TM	X		
Thandi Mthembu – DWAF	TMt	X		
Letona Mohlahli – Dept Health Free State	LMo	X		
Mlungisi Sithebe – Dept Health	MS	X		
Pieter Vermaak – DWAF	PV	X		
Ntsoaki S Mosikili – Dept Health	NSM	X		
Punky Mohale – Dept Health – Lekwa Munici	PM	X		
Tefelo J Mofokeng – Dept Health	TJM	X		
Zola Khotou – DACE Mpumalanga	ZK	X		

No	Item	Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>LM welcomed everyone present to the meeting. LM informed the meeting that Mario Augustinos who was the chairman of the forum has withdrawn from the forum. GV was asked to chair the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Representatives from Dept Health –Lekwa indicated their interest in the forum, however they could not join us for this meeting.</p>	SC
3.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.</p>	
4.	<p>Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>There were no formal additions to the agenda. However the concern regarding Representation in the forum was once again raised as an issue that requires urgent attention.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters arising from the Previous Minutes</p> <p>Poor representation of stakeholders in the forum remains a problem.</p>	
6.	<p>Report Back from Water Week 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM reported to the meeting that the forum organised a Water Week event in Volksrust on the 23rd March 2004, in line with the Department of Water Affairs water week celebration (23 –28 March 2004). • Four Schools in Volksrust were invited to participate in this event, however only two of the schools turned up. Despite the disappointing turn-up of learners, the event was successful. Short presentations were made by both the Department of Water Affairs and Rand Water focused on bringing awareness on water quality and the role of communities in managing water resources. • On the 25th March 2004, a Water Week event organised by the Department of Water Affairs, communication section was held at Grootdraaidam, again learners from Standerton were invited to participate on this day. The day started with a presentation by the Department of Water Affairs, Grootdraaidam Area office at the Grootdraaidam wall, followed by a presentation from ESKOM, the Grootdraaidam office also took the learners on a tour on the dam wall. The day ended with a tour in Tutuka PowerStation, just outside of Standerton. 	
7.	<p>Forum and Water Quality Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM gave a brief presentation on the role of Catchment Forums and Water quality management. LM spoke briefly on how the Forum 	

<p>fits into the Catchment Management Strategy that has been put together by the Department of Water affairs and forestry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of questions were raised, after the presentation, especially with regard to the CMA and their powers. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed further in the future forum meetings, to bring everyone to speed with the process of CMA development and the roles of the CMA's. 	LM
<p>8. Pollution Incidents</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMo gave a report back on the findings from the follow-up, regarding the sewage pollution incident in Vrede, which was reported in the previous forum meeting. LMo reported that, in a meeting where LM was present (on behalf of DWAF) and the concerned Municipality Manager. The Municipal Manager informed that meeting that this problem was due to sewage pump faults at a pump-station, which resulted in a number of spillages into a nearby stream. The Manager later informed LMo that they have been experiencing problems with acquiring finances from their budget to deal with this problem. The manager further informed the meeting that these pumps were going to be fixed in the meantime, while they try and secure funds from the budget to replace the old sewage system. 	LM & LMo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC informed the meeting that, the Standerton sewage works also experienced a problem that led to sewage being spilled into the Vaal river. SC explained that the aeration system at the plant was faulty and in the process of resolving this problem a spillage that ended in the Vaal river outside their premises occurred. 	SC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMo also informed the meeting of problems that were being encountered at Vrede, due to poor solid waste management. The meeting was also informed that there were discussions that were being held between Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Department of Health Free State, the Municipality and a Community association to try and resolve these problems. 	LM & LMo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM informed the meeting of a hydrocarbon spillage in Standerton, which involved a number of Petroleum companies. LM said that he did not have the full details on this issue, however he would be attending a meeting regarding this problem and would report back in the next meeting. 	LM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC informed the meeting of poor quality water (bad taste and smell) just downstream of the Grootdraaidam, which could be due to algae problems. The Department of Water Affairs was asked to investigate the matter. <p>9. Issues and Concerns:</p>	LM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ML raised the issue of DWAF changing staff now and then as a concern. GV informed the meeting that he will discuss this issue with Marius Keet who is the Deputy Director of the Uppervaal Water Management area (Of which the forum forms part of) • GV also asked LM to provide maps showing monitoring points in the catchment and to present some water quality data from some of the monitoring points. • SC informed the meeting that the Department of Water Affairs, Nelspruit had play-pumps available on request and that the procedure to acquire these could be discussed further with him outside the meeting. • GV was elected as the new Chairperson for the Vaal Dam Reservoir Catchment forum. <p>10. Dates for future meetings: The meeting was reminded of the agreed dates for future meetings and it was agreed that the dates are still suitable.</p> <p>21st July 2004 1st September 2004 13th October 2004 24th November 2004</p> <p>11. Closure : Meeting was adjourned at about 11h30 and the meeting was reminded that the next meeting would be held on the 21 July 2004.</p>	<p>GV</p> <p>LM</p>
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