



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
Thursday, 28 February 2019
 DWS Offices, Deneysville
 10:00 – 13:00

No	Item	Responsible Person	Due Date
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Mogale Matseba welcomed everyone to the forum. 	Chairperson	
2.	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the attendees introduced themselves as the attendance register was circulated. 	All	
3.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Eksteen – Goldi H. Kriel – Goldi J. Madisha – Department of Water and Sanitation L. Nqelenga – Department of Water and Sanitation J. Van Wyk – Department of Water and Sanitation K. De Villiers – Department of Water and Sanitation F. Sono – Eskom N. Hadebe I. Main – SAVE the Vaal 		
4.	Minutes of the previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were adopted as a true reflection of what transpired in the previous meeting. 	All	
5.	Matters arising from the previous meeting (28 February 2019). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1: Mr Letlhake was not present in the meeting and the action will be carried through to the next meeting. Action 2: Mr Letlhake was not present in the meeting and the action will be carried through to the next meeting Action 3: K. Rapelang reported that the sampling point has been removed from the list of data. F. Mamabolo further said that the Sakhile sampling point was not part of the water quality management but it was rather supporting the national microbiological monitoring points. K. Rapelang was tasked to make follow up with RQS to find out if the point is being monitored. 	K. Rapelang	30/05/2019
6. 6.1	Additions to the Agenda Non-attendance of Municipalities		

7.	Items for discussions Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment		
7.1	Rand Water R. Hariram presented the water quality status from October to December and the results reflect as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point VSS: The report shows that COD was non-compliant during the third and fourth quarter. Alkalinity also did not comply with the required standards throughout the whole year. • Point KB: Fluoride, Nitrate and Sulphate were all within an unacceptable range during the last quarter. • Point KW: the water quality has been ideal for most of the perimeters. All the variables have complied with the required standards. • Point KD: All the perimeters have complied with the required standards expect for Alkalinity. • Point KSV: Almost all perimeters were non-compliant during the last quarter and this is due to a number of spillages coming from the town of Vrede. • Point VDS: there are unacceptable levels of COD, Fluoride and alkalinity • Point VGB: the point is upstream of the town of Villiers and the water quality results shows unacceptable levels of Conductivity and alkalinity and one other thing is that flow has been very low at this point. • Point VV: there are unacceptable levels of Conductivity, Alkalinity, Nitrate and E.coli. The high count of E.coli is due to impact of the Plant at Villiers as well as surrounding areas struggling with sanitation. • Point VD4I: water quality for the quarter was ideal and all the perimeters complied with the relevant standards. • Point WF: Nitrate and E.coli were non-compliant for the quarter. The high count of .coli was due to the fact that the oxidation ponds in Frankford still discharge into the river. • Point VD3I: All the perimeters had complied with the required standards except for COD. • Points VD2I and VD1b: all the perimeters have complied with the required standards. • Point KLIPR_VDAM: COD, Fluoride and Nitrate were non-compliant for the quarter. • All the WWTWs are not doing very in terms of compliance except for Vaal Marina WWTW. Perimeters which are mostly non-compliant are Ammonia, COD and Faecal Coliform. • The Deneysville WWTW is still being upgraded and the site manager reported that construction is expected to be completed by October. 	R. Hariram	

- Frankford oxidation ponds should have been decommissioned because of the upgrade of the Namahadi but it seems like there is still sewage in the ponds and it flows into the river.
- There are poor housekeeping practices at Oranjeville and the grass has overgrown and even operators do not feel safe to walk around the yard.
- Mr Matseba mentioned there should be follow up with James Mofokeng to find out if there any plans from Free State Office to decommission the oxidation ponds at Frankford.

7.2 DWS -Gauteng

The water quality report was for the period October to December 2018 and the results are as follows:

- Most of the perimeters are well within the acceptable water quality guidelines at sampling points 1, 2 and 3.
- Sampling point 3 (Spruitsonderdrift D/S of vrede) did not do particularly well in terms of E.coli and Faecal Coliforms. The high count of E.coli and Faecal coliforms was due to the poor infrastructure Sewage works at Phumelela Municipality. Ammonia and Conductivity also did not comply with the required standards.
- Point 5 (Vaal river at Standerton) also had poor water quality results in terms of E.coli and Faecal Coliforms and this is due to the non-operational pump stations in Standerton. The sewer does not reach the WWTW and hence end up in the stream.
- There is still no monitoring taking place at the Sewage works next to Eskom Grootvlei power station and this is the reason there is no data provided.
- Grootvlei mine sewage is a new Plant for Dipaleseng Municipality and it started operating towards the end of 2018. Although the Plant is new but the Nitrate, E.coli and Faecal Coliforms did comply with the required standards for some of the months because the Plant was not well programmed.
- Vaal Marina Sewage works complied with the required standard for the perimeters throughout the quarter expect for the non-compliance of Nitrate during the month of October.
- E.Coli and Faecal Coliform counts are still very high at Cornelia sewage works because the Plant is not functional
- The Standerton Sewage works is also non-operational hence which is why the E.coli and Faecal Coliform counts are high as well as Ammonia and COD.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vrede Sewage Plant is functional and the E.coli and Faecal coliforms managed to comply with the required standards although the Ammonia and Nitrate levels were inconsistent. • The Villiers Sewage works is currently being upgraded therefore the Plant is non-operational hence there are high levels of E.coli and Faecal Coliforms. • Oranjeville Sewage works struggled to comply with required standards in terms of Ammonia, E.coli and Faecal Coliforms throughout the quarter. • R. Hariram asked why the Department is still taking samples at Cornelia. • Mr Matseba mentioned that the Department needs to move to the second stage of enforcement with regards to the Standerton Sewage works and take the matter to Head Office so that they can hold the Municipal Manager accountable for the non-compliances. • Mr Matseba also mentioned that notices should be issued to all non-operational Sewage works and that K. Rapelang should follow all the necessary procedures until the matter is handed over to CME to issue directives. • Mr Matseba also raised concerns regarding the non-attendance of local Municipalities to the forum and further asked Mr Kotsoane if the District Municipality holds meetings relating to water resource management. Mr Matseba further asked to be informed about the next District Municipality meeting relating to water resource management so that he can attend and address the issue of non-attendance. • Z. Ngubeni asked why the Eskom Sewage Plant (Dipaleseng Municipality) was not sampled because according to her knowledge it has been working for the past 7 months. <p>7.3 DWS - Free State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. <p>7.4 Solid Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no representative from the Municipality to give feedback. <p>7.5 CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology 	<p>K. Rapelang</p>	<p>30/05/2019</p>
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8	<p>Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders)</p> <p>8.1 Phumelela Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>8.2 Lekwa Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>8.3 Metsimaholo Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. <p>8.4 Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology. <p>8.5 VQA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. <p>8.6 Goldi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology <p>8.7 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Power Station has an amendment licence which is due to expire in December 2019 and they are having difficulties with receiving feedback from the Department to enable them to proceed with the application process. • It was reported that Eskom is still waiting for the application form from the Department and another critical issue is that if the application process is not completed before December then it would mean that Eskom will be operating illegally without a water use licence. • Ms Mamabolo indicated that the application forms for applying for a Water User Licence are on the system and the applicant is supposed to go into the system and apply so that the Department can issue an acknowledgement letter. • Eskom officials indicated that that they were engaging with Mr Bishop Malatsi from the Department of Water and Sanitation and they submitted all the specialized studies reports however Mr Malatsi indicated that he still need to go and meet with the consultants to confirm if the reports are still valid. • Ms Mamabolo said that she will make a follow up with Mr Malatsi and find out what could be delaying the process. • MS Mamabolo asked if Eskom has a permit to abstract. The response was that there is an old permit but at the 	F. Mamabolo	30/05/2019
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9	<p>Water Use License Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phumelela Municipality applied for section 21 (f) but the process has stopped as the Department is still awaiting outstanding information from the applicant. • Wilgepoort application for abstraction: the application has been closed. • Andries Stefanos application for abstraction: the application is still in the initial assessment. • Fezile Dabe fish farming project: the application is still under initial assessment. • Topic SA Merina piggery: the Department is still awaiting outstanding information from the applicant • Phumelela local council Vrede: application still under initial assessment. • Aldren Jacobus Ruldolf Boysen, application for abstraction for irrigation purposes: the application has been closed • Phumelela Local Municipality, application for irrigation with waste water from the WWTW: the application has been closed. 	F. Mamabolo	
10	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Hariram reported that the pipe below the Vrede abattoir is still discharging effluent as it was previously reported. The effluent was tasted for E.coli and the results came back showing E.coli counts of under 300 so which means the effluent is not raw sewage. 	R. Hariram	
11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status of the CMA remains the same although the Minister called a meeting on the 15 of February 2019 in Boksburg for transformation and the outcomes of the meeting was that they want to appoint advisory committee. 	M. Matseba	
12 12.1	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p> <p>Non-attendance of Municipalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department has a task of putting pressure on Municipalities by means of issuing regulatory notices that compels them to attend forum meetings and CME processes will be followed in order to hold the perpetrators accountable. • Ms Koshane also mentioned that it would be appreciated if Municipalities could attend the forum meetings so that they can also discuss the issue of revenue collection. Ms Koshane further said that the Department is struggling to collect revenue as the municipalities are not paying their debts. • It was also discovered that most of the Municipalities abstract more than their initial allocation and they do not 	M. Matseba R. Koshane	

	amend their Water use Licences.		
13.	Date of next meeting 30 May 2019		
14	Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson thanked everyone for participating. 		

VAAL DAM ACTION LIST

28 February 2019

No	Action	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	Action identified	DUE DATE
1.	S. Letlhake to invite the Vaal Marina Landfill site representatives to the next forum meeting	S. Letlhake	May 18	May 2019
2.	S. Letlhake to engage with Eskom and assist them to get a correspondence from Dipaleseng Municipality.	S. Letlhake	May 18	May 2019
3.	K. Rapelang to make follow up with RQS to find out if the Sakhile sampling point is still being monitored	K. Rapelang	February 2019	May 2019
4.	DWS to issue notices to all non-operational WWTW and to follow relevant processes until the matter is handed over to CME for issuance of a formal directive	K. Rapelang/ F Mamabolo	February 2019	May 2019
5.	F. Mamabolo to make follow up with Mr Bishop Malatsi regarding the Eskom Grootvlei Licence application	F. Mamabolo	February 2019	May 2019