



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
 28 May 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"> Bulelwa Shabalala – GSDM Tebogo Mogakabe – GSDM Elza Geysler Nomasonto Nsibande – Eskom Freek Schoeman – Goldi Malise Noe – DWS Jackie Jay – DWS Jurgo Van Wyk – DWS Piet Kruger – Grootvlei Power Station Jason Main – Save (Vaal Dam) Florah Mamabolo – DWS Alexia Hlengani – DWS Nokukhanya – Mafube LM. 	All
4.	Minutes of the previous meeting (Corrections 27 November 2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no changes. 	
5.	Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressed per agenda. 	
6.	Additions to the Agenda	All
6.1	Heidelberg mining	
6.2	Climate change	
7.	Items for discussions: Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment	
7.1	Water Quality Report - DWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWS is still busy with long term monitoring contract. Results will be presented once the long term contract is finalized. The forum indicated that they are not happy that the 	DWS

<p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p>	<p>department has not been doing routine sampling for the past two years.</p> <p>Water Quality Report – Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rand Water presented water quality status for the quarter of 1 January to 31 March 2015. • VSS – There was non-compliance in nitrates for this period. • At sampling point KB – there was an improvement in most variables. • At site KSV, the alkalinity, COD and pH was unacceptable for this quarter. • At site VDS there was an improvement in alkalinity and nitrates, however, COD was still unacceptable. • Water quality at site VGB is acceptable to tolerable for all variables. • VV – there was a non-compliance in nitrates, COD and e.coli. • WF – there was a non-compliance of nitrates and e.coli. • Vaal Dam sampling points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VD4i – Vaal River upstream of Vaal Marina – Improvement in ammonia, nitrates and COD. • VD 2i and 3i — All water quality variables acceptable • VD1i – Improvement in fluoride, nitrates and COD, • New monitoring site: Klip River inflow to Vaal Dam – there was a non-compliance in nitrates and COD. • Standerton sewage works: Noncompliance in ammonia for the last year. Improvement in COD and e.coli • Deneysville sewage works: Noncompliance in ammonia • Frankfort Namadi - Noncompliance in ammonia • Frankfort oxidation ponds - Noncompliance in ammonia and COD • Oranjeville sewage works - Noncompliance in ammonia and e.coli • Vaal Marina- All variables within acceptable limits • Villiers sewage works - Noncompliance in ammonia, COD and e.coli • SAVE (vaaldam) queried the test results for Deneysville and Frankfort. No upgrading or changes had been made to the Deneysville WWTW Plant in the last couple of years. Frankfort’s discharge could not be compliant either, as the tests that were taken at point WF reflected high e.coli counts, and this sample was taken downstream of the Frankfort WWTW Plant. • A query was made by SAVE (vaaldam) regarding the many stations that are not being tested at all and why this situation has been allowed to carry on for so long. <p>DWS Free State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namahadi WWTW – is in the process of being upgraded. Currently they are sorting out the issue of funding. • List of WWTW that are going to be upgraded will be provided in the next meeting. 	<p>DWS</p>
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7.4	<p>DWS Mpumalanga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWS Mpumalanga reported that Balfour WWTW will be upgraded. The project will be funded by Mpumalanga DWS. • Grootvlei New Plant – is under construction, end of May 2015 it will be commissioned. 	DWS
7.5	<p>DWS Solid Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWS reported that Dept of Environmental Affairs and Municipalities are busy identifying the landfill sites that needs to be rehabilitated or decommissioned within the catchment. • T Johnson to follow up on the Vaal Marina landfill site license conditions. 	T Johnson
7.6	<p>CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	
8	<p>Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders)</p>	
8.1	<p>Phumelela Municipality</p> <p><i>Vrede:</i></p> <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. <p><i>Memel Oxidation Ponds :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is functional. 	
8.2	<p>Lekwa Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative reported that most of the pump stations are not functional. Rand Water had a site visit on the 27 May 2015. Feedback on how Rand Water can assist on this matter will be given in the next meeting. The Forum members were advised that the WWTW Plant was now functional and that the WWTW Plant was no longer being bypassed. 	LEKWA LM & Rand Water
8.3	<p>Metsimaholo Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deneysville WWTW – the forum was advised that the Metsimaholo Municipality had plans drawn up to upgrade the WWTW Plant but that the Municipality did not have funding. DWS also advised that their funding was limited. The Municipality intended on servicing an additional 2500 stands in the Refengkgotso area and DWS was going to liaise with the Department of Housing to see whether they could assist with 	D Mchunu / DWS FS

	<p>funding. The sewage infrastructure needs to be upgraded before any further development takes place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load shedding has affected the fully functioning of the pump station. The forum questioned the presence of generators. • SAVE (vaaldam) stated that conservancy tanks are supposed to be able to hold sewage for a period of 72 hours. And that the development had been allowed to continue without upgrading the necessary infrastructure to stop spillages from occurring. • The forum indicated that Metsimaholo is not addressing water quality issues that are reported by Vaal dam communities to them. Communities of Vaal dam are not happy with the municipality. • A Pipe line was put into the dam without adequate environmental investigation by Metsimaholo or DWS. • Metsimaholo is polluting the surrounds, the Vaaldam and the Taaibosspruit which flows into the Vaal River, as their WWTW is not adequate or operating correctly and is between 90-100% over capacity. This situation has been ongoing for years with no intervention from DWS. • Free State DWS answered that they will have a meeting with Metsimaholo municipality regarding this matter. Feedback will be given in the next meeting. 	<p>D Mchunu / DWS FS</p> <p>DWS</p>
8.4	<p>Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative gave an apology. • The Forum members were advised that the Mafube Municipality (Villiers) had no funds to pay their staff and therefore did not purchase chlorine to treat their drinking water or their waste water. The Mafube Municipality also failed to advise the Community to boil their water. The Department of Health Officials had instructed the Mafube Municipality officials to advise their community accordingly. A request was put to an official from Enforcement to investigate and resolve the issue at the Forum. 	<p>DWS CME</p>
8.5	<p>Goldi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative gave an apology. 	
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. 	<p>DWS</p>

<p>8.7</p> <p>8.8</p> <p>8.9</p> <p>8.10</p> <p>8.11</p>	<p>Dipaleseng Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology. See item 8.6. <p>Midvaal LM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Representative <p>Fezile Dabi DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mafube WWTW – there are challenges. A meeting between Fezile Dabi DM and Mafube municipality will be arranged in order to address this matter. <p>Gert Sibande DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative. <p>SAVE the Vaal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed under item 12. 	
<p>9</p>	<p>Water Use License</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANRAL WUL – has been issued. • Transnet WULA – awaiting DDG signature. • Early Bird Farm – to be presented at WUAAAC. • Vaal Marina Fire Station – WUL has been issued. SAVE (vaaldam) queried how this could have been issued when the Fire Station is in the buffer zone of a wetland, in the buffer zone of the 126% flood line level mark and that according to the Vaal Dam development guideline that such an operation is supposed to be 500m behind the 126% flood line level. This would now allow anyone to develop not only on the Vaal Dam coastline, but on all of the waterways in South Africa, as a precedent had been set. It was also stated that there was a dilemma as DWS had originally recommended this activity and Midvaal had already started building, even though the necessary approvals were not in place in 2012, when DWS stopped Midvaal from continuing. • Rand Water General Authorization – issued. 	<p>DWS</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed per agenda. • It is felt that not enough is done by DWS to prevent pollution and or charge municipalities or organisations who are guilty of long term sewerage pollution. More needs to be done. DWS needed to enforce the National Water Act and stop hiding behind Co-operative Governance. The major polluters of our waterways were the Municipalities and Mining Companies. The principle that the polluters must pay should be enforced. 	

11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation process in terms of the Business Case has been closed. DWS is busy consolidating the comment from stakeholders. Progress will be given in the next meeting. 	DWS
12 12.1	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining in Heidelberg: Anglo American Inyosi Coal (Pty) Ltd (AAIC) has applied for a mining right over an area of 14 367 ha on various portions of the farms Elandsfontein 412 IR, Riviersdraai 416 IR, De Hoek 411 IR, Modderfontein 410 IR, Rietspruit 417 IR, De Kuilen 460 IR and Rietspruit 445 IR near Heidelberg in the Gauteng Province. SAVE (vaaldam) established that certain portions of Boschkop were included in this application, which were not disclosed in the BID document. All farmers in this area relied on borehole water for drinking purposes and this would have a dire impact on the groundwater, registered conservancies and air quality. An official from DWS Enforcement stated in his opinion they could mine as long as they did not use water. • I Main gave a presentation on the effect that sewage and coal mining pollution had on the people and environment in China which was relevant to South Africa. She stated that people would in the next decade have: Cancer of the stomach from the food we eat; Cancer of the lungs from the air we breathe and Cancer of the kidneys/liver from the water we drink. Due to the dereliction of duty by our Government and the shameful and irresponsible actions of our Municipalities, our Rivers and Dams were being polluted. 	
12.2	<p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibilities of a climate change are very high when the season changes. A study will be conducted. Feedback will be given in the next meeting. • DWS officials suggested that the flood line level (126%) be increased on the upper Vaal catchment area as flooding was expected in this area due to climate change. Kwazulu Natal area would become dryer. • SAVE(vaaldam) mentioned that changes had already occurred in the environment as: Cosmos was flowering in the area already in November/ December when it should normally flower in February. Not one of the sunflower crops from Villiers to Three Rivers was successful. Seasonal changes had been noticed and rainfall patterns had changed. 	DWS

13	<p>Next Meetings</p> <p>SAVE (vaaldam) would request the Ministers' intervention in requesting the Municipalities in the Upper Catchment, to attend these forum meetings.</p> <p>27 August 2015 DWA Offices, Deneysville 26 November 2015</p>	All
14	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairperson thanked everyone for participating and the meeting adjourned at 14H00. 	R Hariram