



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
Thursday, 29 August 2019
DWS Offices, Deneysville
10:00 – 13:00

No	Item	Responsible Person	Due Date
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairperson welcomed everyone to the forum. 	M. Matseba	
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"> F. Mamabolo – Department of Water and Sanitation L. Van Heerden – DA Councilor R. Meyer – DA Councilor J. Van Wyk – Department of Water and Sanitation K. De Villiers – Department of Water and Sanitation S. Kotsoane – Fezile Dabe District Municipality N. Modumo – Fezile Dabe District Municipality 		
4.	Minutes of the previous meeting Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted with the following corrections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pg 5, Item 8.5: VQA indicated that they were never aware of the meetings and they were struggling to get in touch with DWS to find out about meeting dates but going forward they will avail themselves for the meetings. 	All	
5.	Matters arising from the previous meeting (30 May 2019). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1: Mr Letlhake was not present in the meeting however B. Ramong reported that she extended the forum invitation to the Vaal Marina landfill site representatives and hopefully they will attend in the next forum. Action 2: Mr Letlhake was not present in the meeting and the action will be carried through to the next meeting. Mr Matseba indicated that he will write an email to Mr Letlhake’s principals to inform them about his non-attendance so that the matter can be addressed accordingly. Action 3: K. Rapelang reported that the officials at Villiers WWTW were trying to switch into the new Plant but they could not do so because they discovered leakages in the 	M. Matseba	28/11/2019

	<p>clarifiers therefore they plan to fix the leakages before they can switch to the new plant. Cornelia Plant has also been fixed; the project was for changing a discharge point through a pipeline. At Standerton WWTW they are using their old Plant and it is not specified when the refurbishment of the new plant will be complete. The project for refurbishing the plant at Dennysville has stopped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Riba indicted that the project for refurbishing the Dennysville WWTW has stopped because there are problems between the Metsimaholo Municipality and the contractor over financial implications. K. Riba further mentioned that he would need to gather more information before he can comment further. • N. Mofokeng added that 55% of the concrete work has been completed at the Dennysville Plant for the refurbishment. • Action 4: Mr Matseba reported that the Department is still processing the Eskom Grootvlei Licence and at this stage they are waiting for civil comments. 	K. Riba	28/11/2019
6. 6.1	<p>Additions to the Agenda Election of a new chairperson</p>		
7. 7.1	<p>Items for discussions Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment</p> <p>Rand Water R. Hariram presented the water quality status from April 2019 to June 2019 and the results reflect as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point VSS: Fluoride and Alkalinity did not comply with the required standards for the quarter and this may be due to the urbanization happening in the catchment. • Point KB: Water quality in this sampling point look great and all the variables complied with required standards. • Point KW: the monitoring point was not sampled for the quarter because there is no flow. • Point KD: Tolerable levels of Fluoride and alkalinity but fluoride levels have improved as compared to the last quarter. • Point KSV: Almost all variables were non-compliant during the last quarter except for Ammonia, Chloride and Sulphate and these elevations are caused by sewage problems around Vrede. • Point VDS: Non acceptable levels of fluoride and this may be due to the fact that Standerton WWTW contributes detrimentally to the water quality of the Vaal River although the point is far down stream of the Plant so in this case, other tributaries could have contributed. 	R. Hariram	

- Point VGB: the point is upstream of the town of Villiers and the water quality results shows unacceptable levels of COD, conductivity and alkalinity. Fluoride remains unacceptable.
- Point VV: Conductivity and Alkalinity has shown some improvements with tolerable levels as compared to the last quarter but there are still unacceptable levels of E.coli, Fluoride and nitrate.
- Point VD4I: Water quality at this sampling point ranges from ideal to acceptable and tolerable levels, there is no non-compliance.
- Point WF: E.coli is still a problem in this sampling point due to the Frankfort oxidation ponds and overflowing manholes
- Point VD3I: Only COD was out of specification for this quarter, all the other variable complied with the required standards.
- Point VD1I: All the variables were compliant expect for Nitrate.
- Point KLIPR_VDAM: COD, Conductivity and Nitrate were non-compliant for the quarter and this is due the low flow contribution from Klip River.
- Faecal Coliforms still remain very high at the Standerton sewage works but ammonia seems to have decreased a little. There is a contractor on site busy with the reactors and hopefully in next quarter the quality would have improved.
- All parameters are acceptable at Dennysville WWTW. E.coli improved from unacceptable in the last quarter to acceptable.
- Frankfort oxidation ponds show unacceptable levels of COD and Faecal Coliform. It is important to note that the flow that is tested from the oxidation ponds is not a designated flow point but a leakage from one of the dams flowing into the Wilge River.
- Final effluent from the Oranjeville WWTW to the dam is very poor as ammonia and Faecal coliform levels are elevated.
- Mr Matseba asked Mr Rapeleng if he has issued any notices to the non-complying WWTWs besides the Standerton one. Mr Rapeleng mentioned that most of this treatment works are still operational but they are just failing to comply with the required standards therefore he has not yet issued any notices. Progress of the refurbishments will be monitored to check if there will be any improvements after completion.

7.2 DWS -Gauteng

The water quality report was for the period April to June 2019

K. Rapeleng

and the results are as follows:

- No sampling has taken place during the Month April because the Department did not have laboratory in place to test samples.
- Samples were not taken at the Dipaleseng Plant next to Eskom Grootvlei station for the whole quarter due to lack of access and there were no pumps installed at the Plant. Mr Rapelang mentioned that he had communicated with officials working at the plant and they assured that they will help to make samples available.
- Samples were also not taken at Vrede sewage works because there were no operators at the plant. Vrede sewage works is located on the outskirts and there are not always people on site therefore samples were not taken in May and June.
- Point 1 (Vaal River @ Villiers Flood section) is located very close to the Villiers sewage works and the results shows high levels of E.coli and Faecal Coliforms for the whole quarter and this may be due to the effluent coming from the plant and manhole overflow into the stream.
- Point 4(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 manhole overflow and poor infrastructure Sewage works at Phumelela Municipality. Ammonia and Conductivity also did not comply with the required standards.
- Standerton sewage works is still struggling with high levels of E.coli and Faecal coliforms because the Plant was non-operational but they have installed a new pump so hopefully the plant will perform better in the next quarter. Ammonia and COD were also out of spec for the whole quarter.
- Villiers sewage works did not comply with the required standard in terms of E.coli and Faecal coliforms during the month of June. Some of the processes were bypassed during the construction of the new plant Villiers so it contributed to the exceedances of ammonia and COD as well.
- Oranjeville sewage works was within the acceptable limit in terms of E.coli and Faecal coliform but Ammonia was out of spec for the whole quarter.
- Grootvlei Mine Sewage works is quite a new plant but the water quality is not up to standard in terms of E.coli and Ammonia because the operators are struggling to operate the system so perhaps training is required.
- Vaal Marina Sewage works was compliant in terms of all

	<p>the variables except for Ammonia and Nitrate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornelia sewage works is also struggling in terms of Faecal coliforms and E.coli but the results were taken before the refurbishment of the plant therefore the results might be different in the next quarter. • Mr Matseba mentioned the Dipaleseng plant in grootvlei needs to be given attention because it has not yet officially handed over to the municipality by the service provider but it is already not complying. K. Rapelang mentioned that he visited the Plant to monitor compliance and he also forwarded them an invitation to the forum but they did not honor the invitation. DWS will make follow up inspections and hopefully issue a directive if compliance is not met. <p>7.3 DWS – Free State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Bambo reported that DWS Free state is also doing Waste water monitoring program however he would need to familiarize himself with the Vaal Dam catchment before he can compile a report and present to the forum. <p>7.4 Solid Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>7.5 CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Nqelenga reported that they will conduct a compliance audit at the Dennysville WWTW in October. • Enforcement officials have started an inspection program and have already visited Standerton WWTW. Grootvlei Plant will follow next. Feedback will be provided in the next meeting 	K. Rapelang	28/11/2019
8	<p>Catchment Activities (Feedback from Stakeholders)</p> <p>8.1 Phumelela Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>M.12 Lekwa Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>M.12 Metsimaholo Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Riba reported the Metsimaholo is not involved in any activities for now. <p>8.4 Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Jacobs reported that he is a consultant for the Municipality and he formally apologized for the Municipal 		

	<p>are not getting any assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Hariram mentioned that Lesotho highlands is cutting the water supply to South Africa in October and November therefore depending on flow, Mafube Municipality might experience problems with the water supply. • Mr Matseba mentioned that Mafube municipality and DWS should check if there is alternative source of supply and prepare for the water cut. <p>8.6 Goldi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plant at Goldi is currently operating at full capacity and the water quality results are within the limits. • Goldi is only receiving about 60% of water from the municipality and rest of the water is being trucked in. The facility is not receiving enough water but the production is running in full capacity. <p>8.7 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>8.8 Dipaleseng Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology. <p>8.9 Midvaal LM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Ramong reported that Mr S. Letlhake is still working for Midvaal municipality but he has been moved to other Plants therefore he will not be attending the Vaal dam forum anymore. • P. Moyane reported that Vaal Marina is doing well under general limits for discharges but the challenge was with the licence. • Plant is struggling to reduce the limits for Phosphate, Nitrate and Electrical conductivity. • Mr Matseba asked Midvaal municipality to start reporting like other stakeholders and provide a quarterly report. <p>8.10 Fezile Dabi DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology <p>8.11 Gert Sibande DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>8.12 SAVE the Vaal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 	C. Eksteen	
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9	<p>Water Use License Status</p> <p>P. Maphakela presented the following Water use licence status:</p> <p>Issued Licences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eskom Holdings SOC TLD: Grootvleiv Standerton 88kv refurbishment • Phumelela Local Municipality (WULA was closed) • Phumelela Local Council: Vrede (WULA with withdrawn) • Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd: Jelicoe and Water meyer street. <p>Licences in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topigs SA Ltd Topigs SA Merino Piggery; Application still awaiting Geo, E&R and civil comments. • Free State oil: application is on initial assessment • Hifos (pty) Ltd Phosphoric Acid Plant: application is on initial assessment. • Eskom Grootvlei power station: application is awaiting civil comments. 	P. Maphakela	
10	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Rapelang reported that investigations have been conducted regarding the pollution incidents Denysville and Oranjeville and the problem was resolved. • The sewage spillage in Denysville was caused by non-operational and vandalized pump. Follow up inspection was done with Metsimaholo Municipality and it was found that the pump is operating but only manually but later on the automatic part was fixed and plant started operating properly. • J. Zawane thanked Mr Rapelang and Metsimaholo municipality for attending to the problem but he further mentioned that it not only Denysville which has sewer problems. J. Zwane added there is another spillage on the road to Oranjeville next to the cemetery where sewage is flowing into someone’s yard but they will conduct local inspections to check the route cause. • J. Jansen Van Ruuren mentioned that there is a certain pollution incident which was reported last year in July but there has never been a final outcome or feedback and he further asked what the right procedure for reporting was. • Mr Matseba said that reporting of pollution incidents should start at the Municipality because it is not the work of the Department to attend to pollution incidents. The Department can only intervene after all the procedures for reporting have been exhausted and it is found out that the 		

	<p>municipality has not attended to the problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K Rapelang mentioned that he is aware of the incidents which was reported last year and the reason it took long to resolve it is that the incident was associated with illegal dumping of building rubbles not sewage spillage. Illegal dumping is the responsibility of Department of Environmental Affairs and local municipalities, not DWS. • J. Jansen Van Ruuren mentioned that DEA already has tollfree number and a website for reporting such things but they never respond. Mr Matseba said that DWS will make a follow up with DEA regarding the issue of responding to responded incidents and illegal dumping. • M. Bambo said that Municipality must develop an incident management protocol to make it easier for the community to report incidents. 	M. Matseba	27/11/2019
11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Matseba reported that the advisory committee was appointed by the previous Minister and it was agreed that since the advisory committee members were political appointees then the current Minister should continue with those appointments. A submission has been drafted and forwarded to the Minister's office to advise her to continue with the previous advisory committee. 		
12 12.1	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda Election of a new Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Nthabiseng Mofokeng has been elected as the new Chairperson for the Vaal dam forum. 		
13.	<p>Date of next meeting 29 August 2019</p>		
14	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson thanked everyone for participating. 	M. Matseba	

VAAL DAM ACTION LIST

29 August 2019

No	Action	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	Action identified	DUE DATE
1.	K. Riba to make follow up with Metsimaholo PMU Department to gather information regarding the stopping of the refurbishment for Denysville WWTW	K. Riba	August 2019	November 2019
2.	Mr Matseba to send an email to DEA to make a follow up regarding the issue of not responding to reported incidents and illegal dumping	M. Matseba	August 2019	November 2019
3.	K. Rapelang to make follow up at Dipaleseng Sewage works next Eskom grootvlei power station to check if they have resolved their issue	K. Rapelang	August 2019	November 2019