



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
Thursday, 27 August 2020
 Zoom Virtual Platform
 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. 	J. Jansen Van Vuuren	
2.	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees were captured on the Zoom platform as they renamed their devices with their official names and the attendance register will be generated from that list. 	All	
3.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the attendance register. 		
4.	Minutes of the previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true reflection of what transpired in the meeting. 	All	
5.	Matters arising from the previous meeting (February 2020). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1: K. Riba was not present in the forum meeting therefore the action is deferred to the next meeting. Action 2: K. Rapelang was not present in the forum meeting therefore the action is deferred to the next meeting. T. Metiso mentioned that DWS is busy taking steps to ensure that the Dipaleseng Municipality fix the Plant and get it to function properly. Action 3: E. Matseba was not present in the forum meeting therefore the action is deferred to the next meeting. K. Manten mentioned that she posed a question regarding AMD discharge into the Vaal River during one of the previous meetings. R. Hariram mentioned that the two AMD plants are located in the Barrage catchment and not the Vaal dam catchment therefore the two AMD plants do not directly affect the Vaal dam. Action 4: J. Jansen Van Vuuren reported that a criminal charge was laid to the Municipality over two years ago regarding dumping of building rubbles into a watercourse and the matter was finally concluded and the Municipality was warned not to dump rubbles into a watercourse anymore and the case was withdrawn by the prosecutor. Action 5: K. Manten reported that she has not managed 		

	<p>to invite Mr P. Bredenhann to discuss issues of building of structures in the watercourse and the Covid-19 pandemic has not made it easy to do so as well. People are still continuing to build structures inside the watercourse and blocking the natural flow of the river and this remains a challenge because it poses a serious threat to the boaters because it can result in loss of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 6: K. Rapelang was not present in the forum meeting therefore the action is deferred to the next meeting. • Action 7: Ms Mpho Morokane was not present in the forum meeting therefore the action is deferred to the next meeting. • Action 8: J. Mthombeni was not present in the forum meeting therefore the action is deferred to the next meeting. • Action 9: R. Hariram mentioned that Lesotho water is discharging an average of 24 000 liters per second into the Liebenbergsvlei and the river goes down to join the Wilge River which ultimately falls into the Vaal dam. The Wilge River is flowing at about 200 liters per second which is basically nothing so this means that only the Liebenbergsvlei is supporting the Vaal dam and the dry season has nearly arrived. According to the calculations the Vaal dam is only receiving about 24 cubic meters per second and the amount that is being abstracted out of the dam is about 70 000 liters per second. This means that basically the dam is already at a deficit because it is losing about 50 000 liters per second a day and this equates to about 1% a week so the dam will keep dropping. The dam will only start to rise when the inflow is greater than 70 000 liters per second. • J. Jansen Van Vuuren asked if R. Hariram can determine what the rainy season is going be like for the coming year. R. Hariram mentioned that he cannot comment on that because has not had any communication with people from climatic change unit. • L. Van Heerden asked how low the Vaal dam should drop before water can be released from the Sterkfontein. R. Hariram said that the authorities will keep water in the Sterkfontein for as long as possible because it is an ideal water storage facility because it has a high altitude and lower evaporation and it is very deep. For drinking water Vaal dam can take water down to about 16% before can be released from Sterkfontein into the Vaal dam. 		
6. 6.1	<p>Additions to the Agenda Pig farm upstream of Villiers</p>		

7.	<p>Items for discussions</p> <p>Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment</p>		
7.1	<p>Rand Water</p> <p>Simon Mpoetji presented the water quality status from April 2020 to June 2019 and the results reflect as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point KD in the Klipspruit River was monitored and the water quality shows that only variables which were non-compliant are Fluoride and Nitrates. There are no major activities happening on that part of the Catchment and the only thing happening is dry land farming. • Another site which was monitored is point KSV in the Spruitsonderdrift River and this river originates from the Vrede town. The water shows the impact on the Vrede Town on the river because variables such as COD, Conductivity, Fluoride, Nitrates and Phosphates were all non-compliant. • The level of ammonia, COD, Nitrate and Phosphate were very high during the quarter under review at point VDS and the impact would be the town of Standerton including all the raw sewage from broken sewer lines flowing into the river. • Water quality for point VGB was good except for the non-compliance of COD. Alkalinity also slightly deteriorated. • Point VV had a lot of non-compliances during the quarter under review and variables such as COD, E.coli, Fluoride and Nitrates did not comply with the required standards. • Point VD4I was non-compliant in terms of Fluoride and Nitrate. • Point WF at Franfort there was a non-compliant of COD, E.coli and Nitrate for the quarter under review and the impact would be the town of Frankfort and the oxidation points located upstream of that site. • Point VD3I was compliant throughout the quarter but the only variable that failed to comply with the required standard was Nitrate. • Point VD2I was also compliant throughout the quarter but the only variable that failed to comply with the required standard was Nitrate • Point VD1I is located in Deneysville near the Rand Water intake tower and the only challenge in that site is the high levels of Nitrate. • Point KLIPR_VDAM water quality results indicate that the River has challenges with regards to Nitrate, COD and Fluoride. • Vaal Marina WWTW managed to comply with the required standards for all the variables except for Ammonia. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villiers WWTW did not comply with the required standards in terms of Ammonia and COD for quarter 3 and 4. Phosphate levels also deteriorated in the fourth quarter. • A. Botha asked why the Ammonia levels are very high in most of the sites. S. Mporetji mentioned that ammonia is part of the nutrients and the contribution in the dam will largely come from WWTW that are poorly operated. There was no rain during the quarter under review so the levels of ammonia could not have come from runoffs, meaning that the entire sewage network failure is the cause of the elevations. • A. Botha asked what could be the cause of high levels of Fluoride at Deneysville. R. Hariram mentioned that the biggest source of Fluoride is industrial activities and a lot of Fluoride is coming from the Waterval Catchment. Fluoride may not originate from the WWTW at the Vaal dam catchment but it may be coming from further upstream. Vaal Dam is a sink and it has been a sink for a lot of pollutants over the years and materials get stuck in the sediments and get re-suspended especially when there is wind. <p>7.2 DWS –Gauteng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology <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"> • Absent without apology <p>7.5 CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 		
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 • K. Manten mentioned there is no representative available from the Metsimaholo Municipality despite talking to them regarding their non-attendance for the forum. There 		

was an incident recently with regards to Metsimaholo Municipality spilling waste water or raw sewage into the Vaal Dam and it has been an ongoing problem but this time it has increased. DWS officials have been informed about the problem and Mr B. Rapelang came to the site to witness and take note of what was going on but it doesn't seem as though anything is happening in terms of compliance and enforcement.

- Metsimaholo Municipality has in the interim managed to repair a number of the blockages that was causing the problem and the flow of sewage into the Vaal dam has stopped but it is just temporary solution until they dig another trench to divert the sewage again.
- L. Van Heerden mentioned that it was reported in the last forum meeting that there is a sewage spill that runs next to the road between Deneysville and Sasolburg and the sewage is still spilling even today. Some of the farmers have complained that the sewage is flowing into their farms and it is forming a wetland. K. Manten mentioned that whenever there are blocked pipes the Metsimaholo Municipality usually dig a trench to divert the waste water down into the manmade wetland which eventually flows down into the Taaiboschspruit then the Vaal River.
- K. Manten mentioned that the Metsimaholo WWTW is still not functioning at its full capacity and the upgrade of that Plant has not been completed and the contractor and the Municipality are still involved in a legal dispute regarding the finances while the township and the communities as a whole are held at ransom and they are forced to live with sewer.
- J. Jansen Van Vuuren suggested that the complaints should be written on paper so that they can be forwarded to the Municipality. K. Manten said she will write a formal letter and highlight all the challenges caused by sewer spillages and forward it to the Chairperson of the forum and she will also ask for the backing of SAVE the Vaal and the inputs of L. Van Heerden.

7.12 **Mafube Municipality**

- Absent without apology

7.12 **VQA**

- A. Botha reported that nothing much has been done more particularly because of the current load shedding that was experienced and the lockdown as well.
- The sewage at Villiers is very problematic and it is running all over the place and there is also a huge problem at the taxi rank where the sewer is constantly over flowing and it

	<p>runs straight into the river and every Monday people have to come and unblock the manholes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WWTW is not completely upgraded and it is unclear where all the money went. • The issue of sewer spillages is an ongoing battle and seems to be no improvement but VQA will fight till the end until the sewer problem is resolved. <p>8.6 Goldi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>8.7 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Metiso reported that Eskom is monitoring all their sampling points but there was one sampling point which was not sampled in the farms due to vandalism. The borehole was blocked but they are working on it to re-drill it and bring it back to life. • One major concern is that the WWTW that next to the Eskom power station is not operating properly and sometimes the raw sewage flows into a nearby wetland. • It has been noted that DWS is busy taking steps to ensure that the Dipaleseng Municipality fix the Plant and get it to function properly. Eskom has been doing maintenance to the Plant and also helping the Municipality with the operational resources but the Plant is deteriorating. • Sometime last year Eskom had a meeting with DWS compliance Monitoring and Enforcement unit and they went on a site inspection and it was found out that the Municipality is using a generator to pump the sewer and discharge it into the environment and bypassing the whole procedure of the Plant but DWS is dealing with the matter. • DWS issued a new Water Use Licence to Eskom in December last year and the main priority is to adhere to the conditions of the new Licence but so far everything is going accordingly. • N. Nsibande mentioned that DWS was due to issue a notice to Dipaleseng Municipality regarding the non-compliance of the Plant but did not get confirmation from K. Rapelang if he managed to issue that notice. N. Nsibande to liaise with K. Rapelang to find out if he managed to issue a notice to Dipaleseng Municipality. <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"> • P. Moyane mentioned that there is nothing much to report but the only highlight is that during May and June there 	N. Nsibande	26/11/2020
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	<p>was a problem with their raw water pump which pumps water into the BNR and it was dislocated. The challenge with the pump resulted in high COD and Phosphate levels. The pump was repaired towards the end of June and all the parameters went back to normal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of the Licence limit, Eskom is at 42% and they are struggling to comply with the required standards because some the limits are stringent and the plant cannot cope with those conditions but it is complying in terms of the general limits. <p>8.10 Fezile Dabi DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without 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"> • K. Manten reported that Metsimaholo WWTW is not operating effectively and the waste water is being diverted into the Vaal Dam and they are waiting for DWS to carry on with the legal proceedings so that the Municipality can be held accountable for their wrongdoing. The matter has been going on for over three years and there is no pressure by DWS to rectify the situation and it is not only Metsimaholo Municipality that is not complying. • J. Jansen Van Vuuren also concurred with K. Manten and he also said that the these Municipalities have lack of accountability and the recent Auditor General's report show how terrible the Municipalities are doing in terms of managing their sewer system. 		
9	<p>Water Use License Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology 		
10	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution incidents were discussed as part of the agenda items particularly the sewer spillages from Metsimaholo Municipality. • H. Hariram mentioned that S. Mporetji submitted a lot reports regarding sewage pollution especially around the Frankfort area and it is under Mafube Municipality jurisdiction but DWS has been informed about the incidents. 	J. Jansen Van Vuuren	
11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. de Fontaine reported that the update from DWS is that the CMAs are going to be rationalized and reduced from 9 	M. de Fontaine	

	to 6 CMAs although the establishment of the 6 CMAs has not yet been gazetted but there were discussions about it and there is available documentation of the discussions.		
12 12.1	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p> <p>Pig farm upstream of Villiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Jansen Van Vuuren reported that there is a new large scale piggery which will be situated upstream of Villiers and the piggery will be on a farm land and will cover around 800 Hectors. • J. Jansen Van Vuuren mentioned that he does not have much information about the piggery but he is concerned about the environment. The project may be in the scoping phase but the community has not been informed but the public participation has already been completed and there were no objections and it is very concerning. • R. Hariram mentioned that there is a Piggery below Vaal dam and from research it was discovered that pigs are hosts of pathogens and they are not human friendly. The problem is that Villiers's water comes directly out of the river and this new piggery is located upstream of Villiers and this means that if they do not manage their waste properly, it can cause a serious risk to the water resource. 		
13.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>26 November 2020</p>		
14	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Van Heerden mentioned that so many forum members did not attend the zoom meeting and it is very concerning but perhaps it is because people are not used to the technical aspects of the new technology. Attending zoom meetings is very convenient because people do not have to travel anymore and they can attend meetings in the comfort of their own homes or offices so there should be no excuse for people not to attend the forum. • A. Botha mentioned that she will be out for the next three months and she will embark on a mission to conduct inspections at Villiers and put together a report regarding all the challenges Villiers is being faced with. • S. Mporetji mentioned that the absence of DWS and Municipalities from the meeting is very concerning and pressure must be put on them to attend the forum. • R. Hariram said there are a lot of talks but there are not a lot of actions happening in and around the Vaal dam catchment and that should change. • A. Salagae mentioned that the issue of snow in Lesotho and the Katse dam receiving much of their water from snow 		

	runoff was very interesting in terms of the climate change projections and it goes to show that the increase in temperature in the upper parts of the Vaal more especially in Lesotho and Qwaqwa indicate that will be a challenge yield in the water resources.		
14.	Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned. 	J. Jansen Van Vuuren	

VAAL DAM ACTION LIST

27 August 2020

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 2020
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K. Rapelang to liaise with the Dipaleseng Municipality to obtain the action plan for fixing their Plant next to the Eskom Grootvlei power station N. Nsibande to liaise with K. Rapelang to find out if he managed to issue a notice to Dipaleseng Municipality. 	K. Rapelang N. Nsibande	February 2020 August 2020	November 2020 November 2020
3.	E. Matseba to make follow up to find out what is the latest status with regards to phase two of the AMD treatment.	E. Matseba	February 2020	November 2020
4.	K. Rapelang to liaise with Mr Martin Bambo from DWS Free state to find out what happened with the refurbishment projects that were taking place at the Oranjeville and Deneysville WWTW	K. Rapelang	February 2020	August 2020
5.	Ms Mpho Morokane to update the forum in the next meeting regarding which Municipalities are uploading their data on the Blue/Green Drop System	M. Morokane	February 2020	November 2020
6.	J. Mthombeni to invite P. Bredenhann to provide update on the operational rules of the dam.	J. Mthombeni	February 2020	November 2020
7.	K. Manten to write a formal letter and highlight all the challenges caused by sewer spillages and forward it to the Chairperson of the forum	K. Manten	August 2020	November 2020