



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
Thursday, 28 November 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 N. Mofokeng - Metsimaholo Local Municipality J. Van Wyk – Department of Water and Sanitation L. Nqelenga – Department of Water and Sanitation K. De Villiers – Department of Water and Sanitation T. Metiso – Eskom Grootvlei power station B. Ramong – Midvaal Local 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 2, Item 7.1, Bullet 1: Urbanisation was replaced with agricultural activities. Pg 6, Item 8.5: J. Van Ruuren was replaced with J. Van Vuuren. Pg 8, item 10, Bullet 4: J. Van Ruuren was replaced with J. Van Vuuren. 	All	
5.	Matters arising from the previous meeting (30 May 2019). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1: K. Riba was not present in the forum meeting therefore is action is deferred to the next meeting. Action 2: Mr Matseba reported that he did send an email to DEA regarding their failure to respond to reported illegal dumping incidents. Action 3: K. Riba was not present in the forum meeting therefore is action is deferred to the next meeting. 		
6.	Additions to the Agenda		
6.1	Illegal dumping		
6.2	Election of a new chairperson		
6.3	Sewage spillage Zamdela		

6.4	Illegal structures built in the dams		
6.5	Illegal fishing		
7.	Items for discussions Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment		
7.1	<p>Rand Water</p> <p>S. Mporetji presented the water quality status from July 2019 to September 2019 and the results reflect as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the rivers were dry during the quarter under review therefore most of the problems that were experienced this quarter may be due to lack of dilution or direct discharge into rivers. • Point VSS: the monitoring point was fairly compliant for most of the variables except for Fluoride and Alkalinity • Points KB, KW and KD: Water quality in this sampling points look great and almost all the variables complied with required standards. • WWTW at Memel is not effectively operative hence there were few instances whereby the other variables were non-compliant. • Point KSV: Almost all variables were non-compliant during the last quarter because the river was dry and it received raw sewage discharges coming from the town of 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. • Point VGB: there is an irrigation zone upstream of the sampling point therefore one would not expect any non-compliances especially during dry season but the concentration of Ammonia was very high and it is hard to explain why the ammonia level was high. • Point VV: there is high concentration of COD at this point and this indicates that there is organic pollution in the river. • Point VD4I: Water quality at this sampling point ranges from ideal to acceptable and tolerable level. There is only one non-compliance of Fluoride. • 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 but is has improved as compare to the last quarter. • Point VD2I: All the variables were compliant expect for COD and Ammonia. • Point VD1I: All the variables complied with the required standard which means that the Deneysville WWTW was 	S. Mporetji	

<p>not discharging during this quarter because there is no impact of WWTW effluent in the water quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point KLIPR_VDAM: COD remains a challenge in this sampling point although other determinants such as Nitrate and Conductivity managed to comply for this quarter. • Almost all the WWTW did not comply with the required standards in terms of Ammonia, COD and Faecal coliforms which mean that all this WWTW need to optimize their removal processes. • J. Van Vuuren asked why samples E.coli are not taken upstream from Villiers. R. Hariram mentioned that they only test E.coli that's going to come from the WWTW and in the dam. • J. Van Vuuren also mentioned that E.coli levels have doubled at the Villiers WWTW but it was promised in the last meeting that it would have improved this quarter. R. Hariram mentioned that the issue is with the design of the WWTW because the final effluent from the reactor is circulated through the oxidation ponds and those oxidation ponds have never been disludged so they are basically re-polluting the water. Ms Maphakela to make a follow up with Villiers WWTW to find out when they are going to disludge their oxidation ponds. • L. Van Heerden asked why the Oranjeville WWTW did not comply in terms of Ammonia and Faecal Coliforms throughout all the quarters. R. Hariram reported that the Oranjeville Plant is hydraulically overloaded therefore it cannot handle all volume of effluent coming into the Plant. • L. Van Heerden also mentioned that the Deneysville WWTW is in the process of being upgraded but it is facing similar challenges of Ammonia and Faecal coliforms. M. Matseba said that the plant is not yet optimal therefore they must allow for the refurbishment process to be complete before they can expect improvements in the water quality. • SAVE mentioned that there is sewer spillage going through trenches bypassing Deneysville pump house and the effluent has created a wetland. P. Maphakela to make follow up. 		
<p>7.2 DWS –Gauteng</p> <p>The water quality report was for the period July to September 2019 and the results are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH did not comply with the required standards at point 1 (Vaal river @ Villiers flood section) for the month of 	P. Maphakela	27/02/2020

August and September. P. Maphakela also noted that some of the color codings for conductivity are not correlating with the guidelines for the catchment therefore suggested that forum members disregard the color coding for conductivity.

- Nitrate level has been consistently in the red for the month of August and September at Point 2 (Vaal dam on Vaal River)
- Point 4 and 5 seem to be very problematic as the water quality reflects that Ammonia, COD, Conductivity and microorganisms have consistently been unacceptable
- Ammonia, COD, Orthophosphate and the microorganisms did not comply with the required standards throughout the quarter at Standerton WWTW.
- Vrede sewage works has fairly complied with the required standards expect for Orthophosphate determinants.
- Oranjeville WWTW had challenges of Ammonia and Orthophosphate throughout the quarter. Faecal coliforms and E.coli also exceeded the limits during the month September
- Grootvlei Mine sewage works also exceeded the limits with regards to Ammonia and microorganisms.
- Cornelia sewage works is also problematic as most of the variables do not comply with the required standards especially Ammonia, COD, Orthophosphate and the microorganisms.
- 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.
- S. Mporetji mentioned that the high concentrations of determinants in the river are much lower in the WWTW and it is quite surprising because it would mean that the sewer is now in the river.
- R. Hariram mentioned that sewage from manholes was flowing directly into the river.

7.3 DWS – Free State

- Deneysville WWTW did not comply with the required standards in terms of microbiological determinants for the month of August and the reason could be that the Plant does not have the capacity to treat the effluent. Another reason could be that the chlorination at the Plant is manual. COD and Ammonia also did not comply with the required standards.
- Still on Deneysville WWTW, the Microbiological

	<p>determinants, COD and Orthophosphates were also high during the month of November. Deneysville WWTW was previously issued with a non-compliance letter but now there is a contractor on site to upgrade the Plant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vrede WWTW did not comply with regards to the required standards in terms of E.coli, Orthophosphate, COD and Ammonia in August. There are a lot of spillages flowing in the township. The Plant was not fully operational therefore the effluent just passes through without being treated and they are not disinfecting at the plant. • Villiers WWTW also did not comply with the required standards in terms of E.coli, Faecal coliforms, Orthophosphate, COD and Ammonia. • Cornelia WWTW also did not comply with the required standards in terms of E.coli, Faecal coliforms, Orthophosphate, COD and Ammonia. DWS Free State stopped issuing non-compliance letters to Mafube Municipality because they are under administration. • J. Van Vuuren mentioned that the administration that Mr Bambo spoke about is under section 139 of the Constitution and it is a very limited intervention therefore DWS Free State should continue to issue non-compliance letters to the Municipality. • M. Bambo mentioned that there was an intervention in terms of refurbishing certain treatment works however does not have full details because his role is more in the Water service regulation side and not in the enforcement side. • K. Manten mentioned that Metsimaholo Municipality is not receiving non-compliance letters while the project of the refurbishment of the WWTW has been stopped for over a year. M. Bambo mentioned that there a court case between the contractor and Metsimaholo Municipality regarding the project therefore the Department cannot just take over the project until the problem has been resolved because it is now an infrastructure issue. <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 with apology 		
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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 with apology <p>8.4 Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent without apology <p>8.5 VQA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Van Vuuren mentioned that during the last meeting there was a consultant from Mafube Municipality who was invited to the forum by VQA. • VQA had a workshop with Mafube Municipality on the 26th and 27th of November 2019 and present in that workshop was the highly paid technical Director of the Municipality, the Municipal manager, National treasury, and COGTA. In that meeting the Municipal technical Director and Municipal Manager were reminded about the importance of attending the Vaal dam forum and they agreed that they would attend the meeting or send a delegate but once again there was no effort from the Municipality to attend the meeting. • There is an intervention coming from the community side and at this point they are on the process of finalizing a memorandum for intervention at the Villiers and Frankfort WWTW and they remain hopeful that the intervention will be a success with assistance from stakeholders such as DWS and Rand Water. <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 2 mega liters of water from the municipality per day and their requirement is 4.5 Mega liters. Goldi is looking to install an Aro Plant that can supply them with 2 mega liters per day. <p>8.7 Eskom Grootvlei Power Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent with apology 	J. Van Vuuren	C. Eksteen
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	<p>impact there causes environmental impact and the Plant at Oranjeville cannot handle the volume of sewage coming into the Plant. L. Van Heerden also mentioned that there is a house owner who also deliberately planted a pipe from the house to discharge sewer into the dam nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Matseba mentioned that such incidences must be reported to the Municipality and the Department. Mr Matseba further said that DWS officials will make follow up. 	M. Matseba	27/02/2020
11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Matseba reported that the status quo still remains the same 		
12 12.1	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda Illegal dumping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Van Vuuren reported that in 2018 Mafube Municipality was dumping refuse and building rubbles next to the river but in a water course then the incident was then reported to the SAPS and opened a case. The Municipality went on to pick up the rubbles after being confronted by police but they went further upstream to dump the garbage again and in a watercourse. The matter was then reported to DEA (Department of Environmental Affairs) but the issue was never followed up by DEA. Mr Matseba mentioned that the actions of the Municipality transgresses with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the National Water Act (NWA) therefore the incident should have been reported to DWS as well so that they can issue parallel charges together with DEA. J. Van Vuuren further mentioned that the matter was finally responded to by Annette Murrow but it was after the Human Rights Commission got involved. J. Van Vuuren further said that he went to site with Mr Rapelang to show him where the dumping was but there was no further action taken and there have been more the 30 email exchanges but nothing was ever done. P. Maphakela to follow up with Mr Rapelang to find out why the Municipality was not issued with a notice for the transgression K. Manten reported that the Metsimaholo Dump site next to the WWTW is illegal and not well managed and all the waste from the landfill site is flowing into the WWTW. R. Meyer mentioned that the dump site is overloaded and cannot be controlled anymore but there were negotiations to acquire a new dumping site but the negotiations fell through but they are still trying to get a new landfill site. 	<p>J. Van Vuuren</p> <p>K. Rapelang</p>	27/02/2020

12.2	<p>Election of a next chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Van Vuuren mentioned that during the November elections it seems as though Ms Mofokeng was force into the position of a chair Person and suggested that perhaps another chair person should be elected. P. Maphakela reported that N. Mofokeng sent an apology for not being able to attend the meeting. • M. Matseba mentioned that we should give her time maybe until the next meeting in February next year, then a decision will be taken. 		
12.3	<p>Sewage spillage in Zamdela</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Zwane reported that between Midville and Sigma Mine is there is an area where Sasol stop the sewage for treatment and the smell coming from that area is unbearable and the community cannot handle anymore. DWs to follow up on the matter. 	P. Maphakela	27/02/2020
12.4	<p>Illegal structures in the dam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Mantel reported that there are numerous walls that people are building to make a harbor inside the dam and every time the dam levels goes down these people extend the walls and the walls have no markings and this poses a risk to recreational users. • There are plenty of illegal structures inside the dam and on land and nothing is done about it, neither by DWS nor Metsimaholo Municipality. • M. Matseba mentioned that is an official who deals with dam management plans and there will be specific meetings whereby they thoroughly discuss this plans. • M. Matseba mentioned that the illegal structures need to be removed and this matter will be escalated to the CME unit. Mr Matseba requested that K. Mantel should liaise with Mr Piet Brier regarding these illegal structures and report in the next meeting. 	K. Mantel to liaise with Mr Piet Brier regarding the removal of the illegal structures in the dam.	27/02/2020
12.5	<p>Illegal fishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Mantel mentioned that two days ago there were two vehicles with big bouts in the North Bay with lots of net and they lay the net in the water at night and pull it out in the morning. K. Mantel further mentioned they managed to 		

	<p>pull out up to 4km of netting in the water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Hariram mentioned that in Frankfort the Police carried out a big operation to stake out perpetrators and they arrested people but they were released by the judge. 		
13.	<p>Date of next meeting 27 February 2020</p>		
14	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was adjourned at 12H29 	M. Matseba	

VAAL DAM ACTION LIST

28 November 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	February 2020
2.	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	February 2020
3.	P. Maphakela to make follow up with Villiers WWTW to find out what measures they are taking to dislodge their oxidation ponds	P. Maphakela	November 2019	February 2020
4.	M. Matseba to find out how far is the phase two of the AMD treatment program and report in the next meeting	M. Matseba	November 2019	February 2020
5.	K. Rapelang to give feedback as to why Mafube Municipality was not issued with a notice for illegal dumping (dumping building rubbles into a water course)	K. Rapelang	November 2019	February 2020
6.	DWS to make follow up regarding the alleged sewage smell around the area between Midville and Sigma mine.	P. Maphakela	November 2019	February 2020
7.	K. Manten to liaise with Mr Piet Bredenhann regarding the removal of illegal structures in the dam and report in the next meeting.	K. Manten	November 2019	February 2020