



MINUTES
VAAL DAM RESERVOIR FORUM
Thursday, 30 May 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. 	R. Hariram	
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. Nqelenga – Department of Water and Sanitation • J. Van Wyk – Department of Water and Sanitation • K. De Villiers – Department of Water and Sanitation • M. Matseba – Department of Water and Sanitation • S. Kotsoane – Fezile Dabe District Municipality • N. Modumo – Fezile Dabe District Municipality • S. Letlhake – 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 7, Item 10: There were two reported pollution incidents during the last meeting. The second pollution incident reported was the apparent sewage in the Vaal dam. 	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 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. • Ms B. Ramong to follow up with Mr Letlhake regarding the progress of the above actions. • Action 3: K. Rapelang reported that the Sakhile sampling point has been removed from the list of data. • Action 4: K. Rapelang reported that most of the WWTWs are in the process of being refurbished however the Lekwa Municipality has already been taken to court for their non-compliance. K. Rapelang further reported that the project for refurbishing the Deneysville WWTW has been put on 	B. Ramong	29/08/2019

	<p>hold because the contractor has not received payment. K. Rapelang to provide feedback on the progress of the refurbishment of the WWTW in the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 5: list of all the Applications within the Vaal Dam Catchment will presented to forum members. 	K. Rapelang	29/08/2019
6. 6.1	<p>Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Background</p>		
7. 7.1	<p>Items for discussions</p> <p>Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment</p> <p>Rand Water</p> <p>N. Van der Walt presented the water quality status from April 2018 to March 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 whole quarter. Point KB: Fluoride, Nitrate and Sulphate were all within an unacceptable range during the last quarter. Point KW: Most the variables complied with the required standards except for the Fluoride and Nitrate. Overall water quality of the catchment shows that the most problematic variables are Alkalinity and Fluoride. Conductivity and E.coli also seem to be problematic at some of the sites. Point KD: All the perimeters have complied with the required standards expect for Alkalinity and Nitrates. Point KSV: Almost all variables were non-compliant during the last quarter except for Ammonia, Chloride and Fluoride. Point VDS: Alkalinity was tolerable for the quarter but Nitrates remained unacceptable. Point VGB: the point is upstream of the town of Villiers and the water quality results shows unacceptable levels of COD, Fluoride and alkalinity. Point VV: All the variables did not comply with the required standards except for Ammonia and Chloride. Water quality has slightly deteriorated as compared to the previous quarter. Point VD4I: Fluoride seems to be the most problematic for this quarter although COD and Alkalinity were tolerable. Point WF: E.coli is still a problem in this sampling point due to the Frankfort Sewage works. Point VD3I and VD2: Most of the variable at these points are between tolerable and ideal. Point KLIPR_VDAM: COD, Fluoride and Nitrate were non-compliant for the quarter. Most of the WWTWs are not doing very in terms of Ammonia, COD and Faecal Coliforms and they have been 	N. Van der Walt	

	<p>struggling to comply for a longer period. Vaal Marina has been doing fairly well but during this quarter it struggled to comply in terms of Ammonia and Faecal Coliforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Hariram further said that point VSS is very high up the catchment and the only impact in that part of the catchment is agricultural activities and these are the reason for high levels of Alkalinity. • Point KSV: Vrede is the hotspot in this catchment although it is not a big contributor to pollution in the catchment but it has a localized pollution because the WWTW and the pump stations are not functional so most of the sewage goes into the river partially treated. Water quality is not good for physical contact and it is also a detriment to the environment. • Point VDS: Standerton Sewage Works is also not functional and has a high discharge capacity therefore most the sewage goes into the river untreated which is the reason why the levels of Nitrates and Fluoride are high. • Point VV: This is the last point on the Vaal River as it comes into the Vaal Dam and there are two major contributories of pollution in this point, which is the Wilge River and the Vaal River. Water quality in this point is not looking good. • Point WF is the last sampling point on the Wilge River before it comes into the Vaal Dam and this point shows that there are high levels of E.coli due to the effluent coming from Frankfort oxidation ponds and Namahadi WWTW. • Water Quality at VD2 and VD3 range from tolerable to Ideal due to the fact that the points are in the dam and there is a lot of dilution from the water coming from Lesotho highlands scheme. <p>7.2 DWS -Gauteng</p> <p>The water quality report was for the period January to 2019 and the results are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sampling has taken place during the Month April because the Department did not have laboratory in place to test samples. • Sampling points 1 to 5 are located in the river. 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 during the month of March because the Villiers WWTW is still undergoing refurbishment. • 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 	K. Rapelang	
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the poor infrastructure Sewage works at Phumelela Municipality. Ammonia and Conductivity also did not comply with the required standards. The Sewage works was constructed right next to the river therefore when the plant overflows, the effluent goes straight into the river.

- 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 overflowing manholes and non-operational pump stations in Standerton. The sewer end up in the sewer streams before it could even reach the Sewage works.
- Most of the Sewage works did not comply with the required standards in terms of E.coli and Faecal Coliforms although most of the plants are undergoing refurbishment and hopefully the water will have improved in the next quarter.
- Grootvlei Mine Sewage works is quite a new plant but the water quality is not up to standard. The Plant has a disludging problem however the contractor will work on the problem before the Plant can be handed over to Dipaleseng Municipality.
- Vaal Marina Sewage works was compliant in terms of all the variables during the month of March although conductivity, faecal coliforms and E.coli failed to meet the requirements in January.
- Ammonia and COD proves to be problematic for most of the Sewage works and this is due to non-operational pump stations.

7.3 DWS - Free State

- Absent without apology.

7.4 Solid Waste Management

- There was no representative from the Municipality to give feedback.

7.5 CME

- Absent with 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. <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"> • Absent without apology. <p>8.6 Goldi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plant at Goldi is currently operating at full capacity and they takes water samples once a month so at this stage there are no problems. • Goldi does not discharge any water although they are re-using the recycled water back to the factory. • K. Rapelang mentioned that it was reported that Goldi does not have water currently and he wanted feedback regarding that issue. • C. Eksteen reported that the current water supply with the Municipality only allows them to slaughter once a day therefore they have decided to slaughter every second day. Goldi only gets water supply during the day and the water gets cut off at night. • R. Hariram mentioned that the water cut may be more of an infrastructure issue than the water supply because Grootdraai dam is fairly full therefore the water cut at Goldi can't be due low 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"> • Petunia Moyane reported that they had a challenge of a supernated Pump at Vaal Marina therefore they could not disludge as much as they would have liked. Failure to 	C. Eksteen	
		P. Moyane	

	<p>disluge contributed to the non-compliance of E.coli because most of the suspended solids were filtering in the contact tank and the tank was last cleaned in March 2019. Dosing was not effective because of the sludge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Rapelang mentioned he visited Vaal marina recently and it was reported that the removal of the sludge at the Plant takes place twice a year. K. Rapelang further asked how effective is the process removing the sludge twice a year. • P. Moyane mentioned that the sludge age for the plant is too long because the Plant is only treating less than 0.5 mega liters and the Plant is a 2.5 Mega liter Plant therefore building up of the sludge takes relatively long for it to be removed regularly. <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"> • R. Hariram report that Ms I. Main has retired from the forum but SAVE the Vaal has committed that they will send a representative. 	R. Hariram	
9	<p>Water Use License Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phumelela Municipality; Vrede WWTW: the Department is still awaiting outstanding information from the applicant. • Free State Oil, installation of a pipeline: the application is still on the initial assessment.. • Topic SA Merina piggery: the Department if still awaiting outstanding technical information from the applicant. • Highforce abstraction of water from the river: the application is in an initial assessment. • R. Hariram asked anyone knows the Seriti Coal Mine and further said that they had a public consultation meeting earlier this year and they are having another public participation meeting in June. • R. Hariram also reported that the Metsimaholo underground coal mine dates for public participation are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday 04 June 2019 at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Centre in Zamdela at 14H00 - Wednesday 05 June 2019 at the Refengkgotso Community Hall. 	K. Rapelang	
10	<p>Pollution Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Zwane reported that there is a sewage spillage just as 		

	<p>you enter the Refengkgotso ward 4 area and the sewage is spilling into Derelspruit and the smell in that area is unbearable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Rapelang mentioned that the Department relies heavily on the community and forum members to report such pollutions because the Department alone will not be able to identify all the hotspots because the DWS office is based in Pretoria therefore it is important to keep in touch with the Department and arrange with them for site visits. • S. Mkhwanazi mentioned that he communicated with Ms Nthabiseng Mofokeng and Ms Kgomotso from Metsimaholo Municipality and they indicated that their Pumps have been stolen and they have informed the Department. The Department will be informed again once the new Pumps are procured. • K. Rapelang mentioned that it is important to make a follow up with the Municipality to find out if they have an action plan to fix the problem. • L. Van Herden reported that there is a raw sewage flowing on to the banks of the river in Oranjeville and this pollution was reported on the 23rd of May 2019 and it is increasing. • R. Hariram asked Mr Van Herden to send him and Mr Rapelang an email for details of the incident so that they can follow on it. • R. Hariram mentioned that the localized pollution from sewage is in every little town and it is a violation of human rights therefore sewage pollution problems should be tackled collectively. 		
11	<p>CMA Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status of the CMA remains the same. There is no new feedback. • R. Hariram 		
12 12.1	<p>Discussion of Additions to the agenda</p> <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Zwane mentioned that he is new to the Vaal Dam forum and to know the background, goals and objectives of the Forum. • R. Hariram explained that there are a number of Catchment forums happening countrywide and the main aim of the forum is for stakeholders to share information of what is happening within the catchment in terms of Water quality. A stakeholder can be any water user who has been authorized by means of a Water Use Licence to use water from the streams or water resources therefore any water user or anyone affected by water in this management area should attend the forum. The forum is issued as a platform to report pollutions into the water resource, sewage spillages, overflowing manholes and etc. 	<p>J. Zwane</p> <p>R. Hariram</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the stakeholders for this catchment are Municipalities because they are the biggest contributors of pollution in this catchment primarily from operations of waste water treatment works therefore is the duties of the forum members to act as watchdogs ensure compliance from Municipalities. 		
13.	Date of next meeting 29 August 2019		
14	Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson thanked everyone for participating. 	R. Hariram	

VAAL DAM ACTION LIST

30 May 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	August 2019
2.	S. Letlhake to engage with Eskom and assist them to get a correspondence from Dipaleseng Municipality.	S. Letlhake	May 18	August 2019
3.	K. Rapelang to provide feedback on the progress of the refurbishment of the WWTWs in the next meeting.	K. Rapelang	May 2019	August 2019
5.	F. Mamabolo to make follow up with Mr Bishop Malatsi regarding the Eskom Grootvlei Licence application	F. Mamabolo	February 2019	August 2019