

WATERVAL FORUM

WATERVAL FORUM MEETING HELD IN EVANDER (Old Standard Bank Building), ON THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST 2005 AT 10:00

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

The chairperson welcomed everybody present. She especially welcomed the Municipal Manager and MMC Councillor of the Govan Mbeki Municipality and thanked them for their attendance.

2. ATTENDANCE

Carina Kurpershoek	DWAF: Regional Office
Frik van Staden	Harmony
Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss	DWAF: Regional Office
Saul Vilakazi	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Vivek Kasseepursad	Sasol Synfuels
Stefan de Wet	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Attie Jankowitz	Waterval Farmers Association
Louis Sithole	Harmony
Boet Conradie	Evander Gold Mine
Willie Gouws	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Len Rootman	Harmony Gold
AJF van Zyl	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Karen Chetty	Rand Water
D Nyokana	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Didi Masoabi	Rand Water
ME Maunatlala	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Marianna Nieuwoudt	Matrix PR & Communications
ME Michelle	Govan Mbeki Municipality
Johan van Eck	Govan Mbeki Municipality
MR Gumbi	Hydro Dynamic Solutions
James Harris	Evander Councillor GMM
RJ van Niekerk	Hydro Dynamic Solutions
Dries Venter	Brendan Village
L Saville	MHDS/ARUP
Martin van Veelen	BKS
M Schepers	MHDS
Terry Baker	BKS
Lynette Brown	DEAT
Chris Dirker	Brendan Village
Bertie Botha	Sasol Mining
Gideon Vosloo	Agri Enviro Lab
Ann Naidoo	Sasol Synfuels
Mario Auoustinos	Stakeholder
Wisani Justice Maluleki	DWAF (HO)
Bunene Zola Kotsu	DALA Regional Office
Thembinkosi Mavuso	DALA District Office

3. APOLOGIES

Willem Pistorius

Waterval Farmers Association

Gail Nussey
Ari Kapsosideris
Thabo Masike

Sasol Mining
DWAF: Water Use Efficiency
DWAF: Water Use Efficiency

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting was approved.

4. STANDING MATTERS

4.1 Reporting on Govan Mbeki pollution incidents:

Ms Kurpershoek made a presentation on the serious sewage and waste related pollution problems of Govan Mbeki Municipality, what had been done to rectify the problems and what was planned for the future. The Municipal Manager and MMC councillor of Govan Mbeki Municipality conveyed their total commitment to address these problems and assured the Forum members that Govan Mbeki Municipality was attending to the problems. Ms Kurpershoek also assured the Forum members that she would closely monitor Govan Mbeki Municipality on progress made. Presentation attached for further references.

4.2 Reporting structure on emergency pollution incidents

Ms Kurpershoek reported that she had had a meeting with Mr OJ Mosea of the fire department. The only gap identified in the reporting mechanism of serious water related pollution incidents in the Waterval catchment, was the general public. The fire department has mechanisms in place to alert the general public of an incident when necessary. The fire department is, however, struggling with serious personnel, funding and vehicle shortages. The Municipal Manager of Govan Mbeki municipality is aware of this problem.

4.3 Opportunity for members to raise issues, queries and questions

No queries were raised.

4.4 Correspondence

- Newsletter No.6, July 2005) Development of Charge System for Discharging Waste into Water Resources
- Official DWAF copy of letter dated 16.08.05 to Mr Keet, Regional Director: Gauteng from Marcus Selepe, Regional Director: Mpumalanga - Re: Information requested regarding Govan Mbeki Municipality
- Acknowledgement letter dated 05.07.05 from Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, MP, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry – Re: Pollution of the Waterval River
- WSP Consultants: Notice - Record of Decision on the Proposed Tar Processing Facility in the Evander Industrial Park

4.5 Finances and Membership renewals

The current bank statement is R14 586.40 (Statement No: 0070)

Mr Attie Jankowütz requested at the previous meeting that the farmers wanted feedback on what their monthly payments to the Department are used for and wanted to know how DWAF distributed, managed and allocated the funds as the Forum could also gain from the income received from the farmers in the Waterval catchment

Ms Delia Maré stated that the current income from licence fees paid to DWAF was R2 million per year and that the Department allocated it for paying out salaries to officials in the catchment. There was no budget committee allocated to manage the income enabling DWAF to use the money to cover salaries as Government cut the budget each year.

4.5 New Forum Charters

Ms Kurpershoek reported that the Forum charters in Afrikaans and English had been edited by the Department of Arts and Culture's language department. She highlighted that there was an opportunity again for forum members to make comments on the charters. She stated that the edited charters would be sent out on 19 August 2005 to the Forum members via e-mail for final comment as opportunity was given before to make comments. Comments were received from Mr A Jankowitz, Dr. G Nussey and Mr C Dirker on the Forum charters on the previous occasion. Their comments were adequately addressed and incorporated. The Department of Arts and Culture was also busy translating the English version to Zulu.

4.6. Projects:

- *Water Week event, 20 May 2005*

Ms Kurpershoek reported that the Water Week event took place successfully on 20 May 2005. The Laduma Theatre Group performed for approximately 30 children of 6 primary schools in eMbalenhle. Questions relating to water issues were highlighted in the theatre group performance and in the presentation given by Mr Stanley Kese. Afterwards the children's knowledge was tested on what a catchment was. The children who answered correctly were rewarded with a water bottle, T-shirt or cap, sponsored by Rand Water. The whole event was presented in Zulu.

- *Open Day, 6 September 2005*

The Farmers Open Day was scheduled for 6 September 2005. Ms D Mare of DWAF's Water Supply section dealt with farmers' questions on water abstraction. A presentation by the Agriculture Research Council on how water pollution effected from farming activities could be mitigated. A site visit was also planned to Sasol Synfuels, but it was still uncertain at that stage. All Forum members were welcome to attend.

- *Newsletter*

Ms Nieuwoudt reported that the newsletter was finished and in the process of being printed. The newsletter would be distributed, but Forum members were also welcome to pick up copies from her at her home.

5. Feedback on Water Quality Management Plan Study:

Dr. Van Veelen from BKS made a presentation on the progress of the Waterval Water Quality Management Plan Study. Presentation attached.

The following activities of the study was completed:

The intermediate reserve determination
The geo-hydrological study
The land use and demographics study
The water use and demand study
The calibration of water quantity and flow data in the conceptual computer model of the catchment

The only activities that were underway at that stage were the calibration of water quality data in the computer model and the integration of the water quantity and water quality components.

6. **Presentation from Magnetic Hydro-dynamic solutions:**

Mr Michael Schepers briefly introduced the company. Magnetic Hydro Dynamic Solutions specialised in new technology sewage purification and water purification for drinking water purposes. The decision was reached that a meeting would be set up with Govan Mbeki Municipality to further explore the possibilities of a partnership. **Action: Carina**

7. **Presentation by Ms Liza Brown of the Green Scorpions: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.**

Ms Brown made a presentation on what the Green Scorpions were and what their mandate was. Presentation attached. She highlighted that the media actually had given them the Green Scorpions name and that people should note that they were in reality not separate from Government. The Green Scorpions' real name was actually the Environmental Inspectorate Directorate within the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. On the question if they could take legal steps against local authorities, Ms Brown responded that they unfortunately also had the same constraints as the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry because they were part of Government.

8. **Opportunity for correspondence for licensing processes in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998):**

Ms Kurpershoek highlighted that the Sasol Synfuels Secunda licence would also be distributed on 19 August 2005 for comments. This was the public consultation activity that was required for water use licences. A month's time would be given for comments.

9. **General & Closure**

The meeting was closed and everybody thanked for their attendance.