

WATERVAL FORUM



MINUTES OF THE WATERVAL CATCHMENT FORUM MEETING, HELD ON THE 19th FEBRUARY 2009, AT ROSES INN, SOUTPANSBERG, SECUNDA.

ATTENDANCE

NAME	COMPANY	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
T. Thimisha	DWAF	082 800 6938	thimishat@dwaf.gov.za
T. Masilela	Govan Mbeki Municipality	074 558 8791	thembi.m@govanmbeki.gov.za
S. Makhombothi	Govan Mbeki Municipality	078 346 8442	
T. Makombe	DWAF	083 662 1414	makombet@dwaf.gov.za
M. Likhetho	Rand Water	082 389 0347	mlikheth@randwater.co.za
L. Sithole	Harmony Gold Mines	073 597 7770	louis.sithole@harmony.co.za
L. van de Merwe	FFS Refiners	082 465 1152	linette@ffs.co.za
A. Viljoen	FFS Refiners	082 652 8848	andre@ffs.co.za
K. Chetty	Rand Water	082 389 0374	kchetty@randwater.co.za
R. Kgatle	Sasol Mining	079 505 7942	Rio.kgatle@sasol.com
E. Dagumi	Harmony Gold Mine	082 852 0591	eugene.dagumi@harmony.co.za
Frik van Staden	Harmony Gold Mine	073 503 2391	frik.vanstaden@harmony.co.za
A. Jankowitz	NORBAIN	082 465 0232	jankowitz@secunda.co.za
J. Linde	Sasol Synfuels	017 610 4803	Jaco.linde@sasol.com
H. Dhulab	Sasol Mining	083 446 0138	Hemesh.dhulab@sasol.com
J. Coetzee	Sasol Mining	017 614 5543	johan.coetzee@sasol.com
Dirk Coetzee	Sasol Mining	079 897 5380	dirk.coetzee@sasol.com
F. Mamabolo	DWAF	082 881 8193	mamabolof@dwaf.gov.za
D. Riekert	Waterval Farmers	082 466 7536	dwriekert@telkomsa.net
F. Hattingh	Waterval Farmers	083 399 8796	jassiehattingh@hotmail.com

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ FOLLOW UP
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES	
1.1.	F. Mamabolo introduced herself as the new Assistant Director of the Waterval Catchment and requested everyone around the table to introduce themselves.	
2.	APOLOGIES	
2.2.	Apologies from the following people were noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Nussey • Dragana Ristic • Boet Conradie 	
3.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
3.1.	Minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting with	All

	<p>the following changes that had to be made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Jankowitz indicated that his name has one letter N. 	
4.	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	
4.1	F. Mamabolo asked A. Jankowitz why he asked question as captured on point 4 of the previous meeting and J. Linde indicated that questions were raised because there was a misunderstanding and the minutes were not captured correctly.	All
5.	ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	
5.1.	The following points were raised by the forum members as the additions to the agenda	All
5.1.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Developments 	
5.1.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Week 	
5.1.3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFS as part of Feed back 	
5.1.4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates of the Reservoir Website 	
5.1.5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site inspection that was conducted in the morning of 19 February 2009 	
6.	Correspondence	
6.1.1	There were no correspondences.	
7.	FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	J. Linde
7.1.	<p>The following points were raised by J. Linde on the subject of finance and membership renewals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an amount of R26090.85 in the bank. • Payment of membership was received from the farmers union • A year ago there were no invoices that were sent out. • There is no plan on how to make use of the money that the forum has at the moment. • There should be a discussion for membership fees again. 	
8.	NEWSLETTER	J. Linde
8.1.	J. Linde indicated that the newsletter was drafted and when it is finalised it will be placed in the local newspaper and further pointed out that information such as, what is the Waterval Forum, objectives of the Forum and how can one join the Forum, will be incorporated in the newsletter.	
8.2.	J. Linde requested people who can go through the newsletter before it can be placed on the newspaper and further indicated that if there are changes to be made they will be made and if people are pleased with the newsletter it can then be placed on the newsletter.	
8.3.	S. Makomboti suggested that the newsletter should be sent to all the Forum members and J. Linde pointed out that if it is done as S. Makomboti suggested there will not be control over the newsletter and further suggested that the newsletter may be sent to representatives of sector in Waterval Catchment.	

8.4.	<p>It was then agreed that the following people will go through the newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWAF: Takalani Thimisha • Sasol: Gail Nussey • Harmony Gold Mine: Boet Conradie • Govan Mbeki Municipality: Sithembile Makombothi • Farmers: Franco Hattingh • Rand Water: Karen Chetty <p>T. Thimisha requested that an invite (date and venue of the next Forum) should be incorporated to the newsletter when placed on the newspaper so that the community members may also attend the Forum meeting.</p>	
9. 9.1 9.1.1. 9.1.2. 9.1.3.	<p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>Water Quality Report: Rand Water</p> <p>M. Likhetho pointed out the under-mentioned regarding the water quality during the last quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was improvement on water quality for Trichardspruit. • There was an increase in Ammonia at the following monitoring points: WAE, WAW, S-EVAN_W, S-SEC_LOC and S-SEC_SEW. • Evander and eMbalenhle WWTWs did not comply in terms of <i>Feecal coliforms</i> and based on the results it can be concluded that there is no chlorination taking place at both WWTWs. • There is improvement in Conductivity except for Bossiespruit. <p>A. Jankowitz indicated that he does not trust sampling results as indicated at Rand Water's Roodebank monitoring point due to him meeting a sampler who advised him that he (the sampler) was retrieving data was more than 6 months old. M. Likhetho indicated that Rand Water takes water samples for the purpose of auditing and samples are taken once per month. K. Chetty also responded that the samples are analysed by their accredited laboratory.</p> <p>A. Jankowitz pointed out that one sample per month is not sufficient for audit purposes and in his opinion the report is not worth anything to the Forum.</p>	M. Likhetho
9.2. 9.2.1. 9.2.2. 9.2.3.	<p>Water Quality Report: DWAF</p> <p>T. Thimisha gave presentation with regard to water quality status, Water Use License status, Govan Mbeki Municipality,</p> <p>T. Thimisha further indicated that the Water Use License objectives were used to measure the water quality of Sasol Synfuels and the general standards were used for the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW's) and the in stream water quality objectives were used for the river points (level 1, 2, 3).</p> <p>T. Thimisha indicated that Sasol Synfuels has complied most of the time during last quarter based on the conditions on the Water Use License and further indicated that Govan Mbeki Municipality is not complying</p>	T. Thimisha

	according to the general standards.	
9.3.	Water Quality Report: Govan Mbeki Municipality	S. Makhombothi
9.3.1.	S. Makombothi indicated that there were no changes in terms of the water quality status and further pointed out that the consultants have been appointed by the Gert Sibande District Municipality for the expansion of the eMbalenhle WWTW to 10ML.	
9.4.	Drinking water Quality Report: Govan Mbeki Municipality	S. Makhombothi
9.4.1	S. Makombothi indicated that the Municipality does not usually report on the drinking water quality but will request a report from the responsible person dealing with monitoring of drinking water and report back on the quality of drinking water at the next Forum meeting.	
9.5.	Harmony Gold Mine	Harmony Gold Mine
9.5.1.	There were no incidents that were experienced E. Dagumi indicated that they experienced less incidents of cable theft since the previous forum in November 2008.	
9.6.	Sasol Synfuels	J. Linde
	J. Linde indicated the following points regarding compliance in Sasol Synfuels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RESM totally complied with the Water Use License conditions with regards to Ammonia, COD and Sulphate except Phosphate because the process is not designed to remove Phosphate. • Conductivity in RESM 7 is usually high in winter due to low flow. • Water Quality in RESM 10 is improving • Sasol Synfuels is busy with the action plan to lower Ammonia. 	
9.7.	Sasol Mining	Sasol Mining
9.7.1.	There were no incidents that were reported. The dams filled up due to heavy rainfall that was experienced and had a major breakdown at the treatment plant and further indicated that there is no emergency plan. J. Coetzee indicated that if Dam F gets full to its capacity water will be released to Dam V.	
9.7.2.	F. Mamabolo enquired if Sasol Mining has emergency measures in place to prevent potential overflow of dams and J. Coetzee pointed out that Sasol Mining is looking into other plans to store water underground.	
9.8.	FARMERS UNION	Farmers
9.8.1.	D. Riekert indicated that in winter the flow of water in the rivers is low and as a result more pollution and dead fish and further requested that if there is an incident that took place and could impact negatively on the river it should be reported to the downstream water users so that they become aware of the incidents.	
9.8.2.	J. Linde indicated that if there is an incident it must be reported to DWAF and enquired what kind of incident should be reported to the downstream users and who will decide that a particular incident should	

	be reported and further indicated that sometimes the impact may not be significant to the downstream water users.	
9.8.3.	A. Jankowitz responded by saying that all incidents should be reported to the downstream users (minor or major) because it may happen that more than one company, mine, industry experience an pollution incident and at the end of the day the impact becomes huge hence he is emphasising that all incidents should be reported.	
9.9.	FFS REFINERS	FFS
9.9.1.	L. van de Merwe indicated that there is no discharge of water taking place at the plant and further indicated that there are effluent storage tanks.	
9.9.2.	A. Viljoen indicated that if one detect any effluent emanating from the area where the industries are sited, it should be reported immediately as it can be traced back to the source.	
9.9.3.	F. Mamabolo enquired if FFS Refiners have a Water Use License and A. Viljoen replied that they do not have a license as there is no discharge or any water use that may require authorisation and they use minute water from the Municipality.	
9.9.4.	A. Jankowitz enquired how FFS can have industrial rights if a proper procedure (water use license application) was not followed and A. Viljoen emphasised that FFS does not abstract or discharge water.	
10.	WATER USE LICENSE STATUS	T. Thimisha
10.1.	F. Mamabolo indicated that T. Thimisha has already presented the water use license application on item 9.9. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sasol Synfuels: License issued in November 2008 • Sasol Mining: Regional Office is still busy with the license • Govan Mbeki Municipality: The Department awaits the WULA • Harmony Gold Mine: Meeting was held with the Mine ad it was agreed that the document for WULA will be resubmitted. 	
11.	CMA	DWAF
11.1.	Vaal Dam Catchment Executive Committee (VDCEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Mamabolo indicated that DWAF will sit internally and discuss the way forward and the date of the next meeting will be communicated to the stakeholders 	
11.2.	Upper Vaal Reference Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Chetty indicated that Upper Vaal Reference Group is influenced by the VDCEC hence nothing can be reported before the VDECEC is in place. 	
12.	DISCUSSIONS OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	All
12.1.	5.1 New developments	

12.1.1.	T. Thimisha indicated that only an application for township development was received by DWAF and a letter stating that DWAF does not recommend the township development at Secunda extension 47 due to sewage problems that Govan Mbeki Municipality is currently experiencing, has already been drafted and is awaiting signature.	
12.1.2.	A. Jankowitz stated that no new developments in Govan Mbeki Municipality should be given a go ahead before the current sewage problems are addressed and further indicated that this is the only way the Municipality will take the public's distress on a serious note.	
12.2.	5.2. Water Week	
12.2.1.	K. Chetty indicated that something should be done during the water week in order to raise environmental awareness to the public and requested the forum members to give details of where it would be appropriated to have the function. T. Masilela was requested to give the contact details of the school where the function could be held.	
12.3.	5.3. FFS as part of Feed back	
12.3.1.	J. Linde pointed out that FFS Refiners should be included at item 9 (Feedback) to allow the company to give feedback.	
12.4.	5.4. Updates of the Reservoir Website	
12.4.1.	F. Mamabolo indicated that the Waterval Catchment information has not been updated for long time (for example, the Charter and water quality report) and further indicated that the newsletter, maps and presentations made at the Forum meeting should be added to the website.	
12.4.2.	K. Chetty indicated that DWAF and the Forum members should forward the updated and necessary information to her and she will update the information since Rand Water maintains the Reservoir Website.	
12.4.3.	J. Linde pointed out that a map that would show all the monitoring points would be suitable to be placed on the Website, as it would be easier to make sense of the monitoring points when the water quality status is presented. He further indicated that the Website can be used as a platform of communication between the water users.	
12.5.	5.5. Site inspection that was conducted in the morning of 19 February 2009.	
12.5.1.	F. Mamabolo indicated that people have seen what is happening at the WWTW and eMbalenhle pump station and people can not deny that there is a crisis and water problems affects all and further indicated that suggestions are welcomed from the Forum members.	
	The suggestions were as follows:	

<p>12.5.3.</p> <p>12.5.3.</p> <p>12.5.4.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Dagumi indicated that the Municipality should increase the penalty of the contactor only then there will not be delays. • A. Jankowitz emphasized that increasing the penalty will not help but all the developments should be stopped because this is a crisis that needs urgent action. • J. Linde indicated that compliance should be enforced. • R. Kgatle indicated that this crisis is occurring because no action is taken against the Municipality and the Forum should use its power to take actions. <p>S. Makhombothi indicated that writing letters to the Municipal Managers is not enough because they do not understand therefore a meeting should be arranged between DWAF and the Govan Mbeki Municipal Manager and further indicated that DWAF has not been implementing the Enforcement protocol on the Municipality.</p> <p>J. Linde indicated that these issues should be escalated to the management level within the Municipality and F. van Staden supported J. Linde by indicating that the Municipality should be taken to court.</p> <p>J. Linde indicated that DWAF has the power to enforce and take stringent action against the Municipality.</p> <p>Way Forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Mamabolo indicated that this matter will be escalated to the DWAF's Head Office. 	
<p>13.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 May 2009 • Venue to be confirmed. 	
<p>14.</p>	<p>CLOSURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Mamabolo thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave a special appreciation to A. Jankowitz for offering to take the Forum Members to a site visit and Govan Mbeki Municipality representatives for attending. 	<p>Chairperson</p>

