

WATERVAL FORUM



MINUTES OF THE WATERVAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT FORUM MEETING, HELD ON THE 22ND OF FEBRUARY 2008, AT ROSES INN, SOUTPANSBERG, SECUNDA.

Attendance

Name	Company	Contact Details	E-mail add
T. Thimisha	DWAF	012 392 1413	thimishat@dwaf.gov.za
T. Rakgotho	DWAF	012 3921362	rakgot@dwaf.gov.za
J. Linde	Sasol Synfuels	017 6104803	Jaco.linde@sasol.com
K. Pema	Iliso Consulting	012 665 3602	kavita@iliso.com
R. Dragana	DWAF	012 336 8302	risticd@dwaf.gov.za
G. Nussey	Sasol Mining	017 616 2207	Gail.nussey@sasol.com
T. Masilela	Govan Mbeki Municipality	017 620 6064	Thembi.m@govanmbeki.gov.za
B. Conradie	Evander gold Mine	017 620 1620	Boet.conradie@harmony.co.za
Casper Laten		0766160320	
Attie Jankowitz	Farmers Union	0824650232	jankowitz@secunda.co.za
James Harris		0826545056	jamesharris@vodamail.co.za
Dries Venter	Brendan Village	0829236073	

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction of attendees and apologies</p> <p>T. Rakgotho welcomed all and noted apologies. All were introduced around the table. Apologies from the ff people were also noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bertie Botha • Nasreen Mansoor • Gideon Vosloo • Clinton Lee • Ann Naidoo • Carel Dirker 	T. Rakgotho
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted as a true reflection with the ff changes and accepted by the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Masilela indicated that Sthembile Makhomboti's surname 	

	<p>was spelled incorrectly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concern was also raised that the minutes must be distributed to everyone at least one month after the meeting date. • Minutes should have page numbers. 	
3.	<p>Opportunities for members to raise issues, queries and questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concern was raised by forum members that they do not know which results should be considered because the DWAF and Rand Water results vary. It was indicated to them that the sewage final effluent is to comply with the discharge standards that are stipulated on their permits. However, the water quality report also compares the final effluent results to the Interim resource quality objectives, which are a little bit stringent as compared to the discharge standards. • Serious concerns were also raised on the on-going spillage of raw sewage in to the water resources in the Embalenhle Township. DWAF was also questioned on what actions are being undertaken to punish the polluters? • It was also indicated that the department is letting the people down due to corporative governance since no actions is taken against local government for polluting the environment. • A request was also made that the top management of DWAF WQM must attend these forum meetings to hear the views of the people at catchment levels. • T. Rakgotho indicated that the problem is beyond M. Keet and further indicated that the very same issues were identified and the Department will come up with a programme on how to deal with the sewage works issues. • It was further raised that the Govan Mbeki Municipality is polluting two rivers system, which are Olifants and Upper Vaal. It was indicated that since DWAF and the Municipality is not doing anything about solving the water pollution taking place in Waterval Catchment, these two authorities should be prosecuted and the money for prosecution would be obtained from the Forum's funds. 	<p>DWAF management to attend forum meetings</p>
4.	<p>STANDING ITEMS</p> <p>4.1 Correspondences</p> <p>There were no correspondences</p> <p>4.2 Finances and Membership renewals</p>	

- J. Linde indicated there is a bank balance of R30 000.00 and the money is not really being utilized and the money should be spent wisely.
- J. Linde further indicated that the forum's money was utilized to book the venue and to arrange catering. He said that the owner of the venue where the previous Forum meetings were held could not agree that the Forum meeting be held at her place because DWAF has not paid up the money.
- T. Rakgotho indicated that she would arrange with DWAF Administration section to ensure that the outstanding money is paid. She further indicated that it is DWAF's responsibility to pay for the Forum venue and catering.

DWAF to pay for venue and refreshments

4.3 News letter

- Jaco indicated that there is no progress with the newsletter.
- K. Pema indicated that someone must be appointed to constantly work on the newsletter.
- It was further indicated that Mariana could be willing to work on the newsletter but not as many as before because she does not have time.

4.4 Feedback from Stakeholders

A request was raised that Farmers Union is to be included in the stakeholders list.

Another concern raised was that no consultation was made when the new name for Waterval River was introduced on the Sowetan newspaper and it was further indicated that the name means obscenity or an insult.

a. Govan Mbeki Municipality

T. Masilela gave the presentation; she indicated that the Municipality does not have sufficient funds to maintain and operate their sewage works.

The forum members were concerned about this and request that DWAF should take action against the Municipality and that Corporative Governance is unacceptable.

T. Masilela further indicated that new plant has been commissioned and the contractor that was appointed did not finish the work that he was appointed to do and was never brought to book.

b. Sasol Synfuels

Nothing was reported

c. Sasol Mining

- G. Nussey indicated that no major pollution incidents took place.
- G. Nussey further indicated that new mine is to be

	<p>commissioned to replace the old mine because there is no coal anymore and that the new mine will be operated under very strict conditions.</p> <p>d. DWAF T. Rakgotho indicated that Nasreen Mansoor is off sick and thus could not prepare the Water quality status report for this quarter. DWAF will however report during the next meeting</p> <p>e. Evander Gold Mine B. Conradie indicated that they experienced a rainfall of 130mm and the dam overflowed on the 21/01/2008 and again on the 28/01/2008 80mm rainfall was experienced and the dam overflowed for 2 two and half hours.</p>	<p>DWAF to present water quality report</p>
5.	<p>5.1 Presentation on Vaal River Studies D. Ristic gave presentation on the Vaal River Studies, which can be accessed from the DWAF's web site.</p> <p>5.2 Presentation on Catchment Management Agency K. Pema presented about the update of the Catchment management Agency progress. See attached slides</p>	<p>D. Ristic (DWAF) to provide updated information.</p> <p>DWAF to give feedback on the CEC and the Reference group</p>
6.	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum members requested that the minutes should be distributed at least a MONTH after the Forum meeting. • K. Pema rose a concern on what went wrong with the attendance of the Waterval Forum meeting because it used to be one of the most active Forums in the Upper Vaal Catchment? • It was indicated that the members are losing interest because the results are not shown and that DWAF and the Municipality are not doing what they preach. 	<p>DWAF to distribute minutes on time</p> <p>FMC to be resuscitated and needs to revisit the stakeholders list</p>
<p>7. Closure</p> <p>T. Rakgotho thanked all the people who attended. The next meeting will be on the 22 May 2008, at 10:00 am.</p>		