

**MINUTES  
WILGE RIVER FORUM**

16 February 2016

Venue : Phumelela Municipality :Warden Offices

10:00 – 13:00



No	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>WELCOME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair welcomed all attendees.</li> </ul>	M Machongoane
2.	<p><b>INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All attendees introduced themselves.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lizel Janse Van Rensburg – FS-DOH</li> <li>Tshedi Xaba – FS-DOH</li> <li>Sophie Van Schalkwyk- FS-DOH</li> <li>Bashan Govender – Vaal River CMA</li> <li>Ephraim Matseba – Vaal River CMA</li> <li>Jackie Jay – DWS</li> <li>Karlien De Villiers – DWS</li> <li>Hope Mthembu-Phumelela LM</li> <li>Sam Kotsoane-FDDM</li> <li>Simon Mporetji-Rand Water</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following changes:  <b>Item 3</b>, Jackie Jay-Vaal Proto CMA changed to Jackie Jay-DWS.  <b>Item 7.2</b>, (1 October 2015 -30 September 2015) was corrected to (1 July 2015-30 September 2015).</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N Malise was tasked to communicate with the Manager responsible for DWS Solid Waste Management and to ensure that relevant officials are attending the next forum meeting and give feedback.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outstanding feedback to be addressed in the next forum meeting by DWS Solid Waste Management Official:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T Pather mentioned that DWS is busy addressing illegal dumping at Warden Landfill site; feedback will be given in the next forum meeting.</li> <li>T Johnson answered that DWS have sent a letter to Phumelela Municipality; feedback will be given in the next meeting.</li> <li>Rand Water indicated that Frankfort landfill site is poorly managed and there is illegal dumping, feedback will be given in the next forum meeting.</li> <li>T Johnson answered that investigation was done at Frankfort. DWS have</li> </ul>	<p>N Malise</p> <p>T Pather</p> <p>T Johnson</p> <p>T Johnson</p>

	written a letter to the municipality, feedback will be given in the next meeting.	
6.	<p><b>ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</b></p> <p>6.1 National WQM Policy and Strategy. 6.2 Water Week Celebration 2016. 6.3 Institutional arrangements at Municipalities.</p>	
7.	<p><b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSIONS</b></p> <p><b>WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</b></p>	
7.1	<p><b>DWS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J Mofokeng indicated that the long term laboratory contract was signed with CSIR as a new service provider and sampling will resume shortly. Feedback on sampling progress will be given in the next forum.</li> </ul>	DWS
7.2	<p><b>RAND WATER</b></p> <p>Rand Water presented water quality results for the period of 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015 and sampling points with problematic variables are indicated below due to contribution of Waste Water Treatment Systems and other activities in the catchment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WL– there was non-compliance of ammonia and nitrate for the whole period (1 October 2015- 31 December 2015).</li> <li>WLBB –there was non-compliance of nitrates and fluoride for the whole period.</li> <li>EQQ –there was non-compliance of ammonia and nitrates for the whole period because of upstream activities.</li> <li>WLR &amp; WE–there were non-compliance of nitrates for the whole period.</li> <li>WLA– Lesotho highlands Ash River Outfall - There was a non-compliance of nitrate for the whole period due to upstream dam (Muela) feeding into the Ash River.</li> <li>Sterk (Sterkfontein Dam) – no data for this period because this point is only sampled twice a year.</li> <li>WN-the water quality is normally good and there is a release that is taking place from sterkfontein dam.</li> <li>WAH– there was non-compliance of fluoride and nitrate for the whole period.</li> <li>WH– there was non-compliance of ammonia, fluoride, phosphate and nitrate for the whole period.</li> <li>WLB – there was non-compliance of fluoride and ammonia and nitrate the whole period.</li> <li>WJ – there was non-compliance of ammonia, fluoride, Phosphate, COD and nitrate the whole period due to the impact from the Bethlehem WWTWs.</li> <li>WMW – there was non-compliance of ammonia, fluoride and nitrate the whole period.</li> <li>WAF – there was non-compliance of fluoride and nitrate for the whole period.</li> </ul>	

7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WF – there was non-compliance of ammonia, fluoride, nitrate and <i>E.coli</i> for the whole period.</li> <li>• It was questioned why sampling is not taken from Cornelius River and R Hariram indicated that there is no adequate monitoring point that can be monitored.</li> <li>• P Cindi suggested that monitoring point below Warden WWTW’s outlet should be considered by Rand Water.</li> <li>• J Mofokeng indicated that discharge standard for WWTWs should change and now comply with issued licence discharge standard.</li> <li>• J Mofokeng to forward the effluent standards to Rand Water before the next forum meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback will be given in the next forum meeting.</li> </ul>	J Mofokeng
8.  8.1	<p><b>CATCHMENT ACTIVITIES – FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS</b></p> <p><b>PHUMELELA MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P Cindi indicated two engineers were appointed previous year to assist Municipality to manage their WWTWs.</li> <li>• Chlorination system at the WWTWs is not working properly.</li> <li>• There were challenges experienced with sewer network blockages and problem was resolved by Municipality.</li> <li>• Municipality is still experiencing Draught challenges.</li> <li>• Municipality is also facing challenges with vandalism.</li> <li>• P Cindi also indicated that the holding dam that was constructed recently is too small to cater for the volumes during the emergency situations.</li> <li>• At pump station No 1 the pipe burst, and engineers are working on that matter to avoid future leakages, feedback will be given in the next forum meeting.</li> <li>• P Cindi further mentioned that pipes were stolen at the final effluent and Municipality has deployed security as part their intervention.</li> <li>• Phumelela Municipality is also working on the awareness campaign to ensure proper communication with the community not dispose debris into sewer lines.</li> <li>• P Cindi also indicated that he did communicate with H Mthembu (Technical Manager) to attend forum meetings and give feedback.</li> </ul>	P Cindi
8.2	<p><b>NKETOANA MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L Ramulwela indicated that Reitz WWTWs is still experiencing challenges with capacity but no spillages were detected.</li> <li>• Municipality is currently working on the upgrade of sewer pump station and screens will be installed by end of February 2016.</li> <li>• Municipality has already appointed environmental consultants to finalise the reports around WWTWs and DWS will be contacted for comments.</li> <li>• The walls around final effluent at Reitz WWTWs were refurbished.</li> <li>• The water quality at Reitz WWTWs has also improved.</li> <li>• The Municipality is conducting sampling and the water quality data is</li> </ul>	

	downloaded under the Department green drop system.	
8.3	<p><b>DIHLABENG MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M Machongoane has apologised for sending the water quality presentation template late to Municipalities.</li> <li>• M Machongoane indicated that inlet works is not working because of the malfunction of electrical panel.</li> <li>• Municipality has advertised for a tender to repair the inlet works.</li> <li>• Municipality is also experiencing mechanical problems with three pump station except the one adjacent to the Liebensbergvlei.</li> <li>• Bethlehem WWTWs final effluent is not complying.</li> <li>• The water quality data is uploaded under the Department green drop system.</li> <li>• L Mabotja questioned about the spillage that took place previous week</li> <li>• M Machongoane mentioned that investigation will be conducted and report in the next forum meeting.</li> <li>• The Municipalities indicated that they are experiencing challenges with cable theft.</li> </ul>	M Machongoane
8.4	<p><b>MAFUBE MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No representative attended.</li> </ul>	
8.5	<p><b>THABO MOFUTSANYANE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B Phahlametsing indicated that QwaQwa area was declared as disaster area due to drought challenges.</li> <li>• The drinking water sampling is conducted by Thabo-Mofutsanyane District to ensure compliance from water suppliers.</li> <li>• B Phahlametsing also indicated that sampling commenced early January 2016.</li> <li>• On the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 Municipal Health Services and the Department of Health went out to QwaQwa Community Radio to give water safety education to the community.</li> <li>• On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 a total of 19 samples, were taken from QwaQwa and Kestel for analysis to UFS Laboratory (Bloemfontein).</li> <li>• Tankers are providing drinking water to QwaQwa area.</li> <li>• Municipality also advised the community to boil water before drinking.</li> <li>• It was indicated that Fika Patso dam is running dry and there is also a challenge with turbidity.</li> <li>• L Mabotja suggested that Municipality should also monitor the dam.</li> <li>• B Phahlametsing indicated that samples are also taken at Bluegumbosch Reservoir which is the main source of drinking water.</li> <li>• Springs have been identified around M-A-P Local area and water were samples taken from them.</li> <li>• L Ramulwela suggested that MAP Water should also communicate with their Health Department to assist community by dosing the water from springs to ensure a good quality.</li> </ul>	
8.6	<p><b>MAP Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T Mphuti did not attend the forum meeting to give feedback.</li> <li>• R Hariram indicated that MAP Water is disposing a sludge adjacent Harrismith WWTWs and this behavior may pose a risk to both ground</li> </ul>	

	<p>and surface water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Mofokeng to follow up on this matter with MAP Water, and report back in the next forum meeting.</li> </ul>	J Mofokeng
8.7	<p><b>FEZILE DABI MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No representative attended.</li> </ul>	
8.8	<p><b>DETEA FREE STATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No representative attended.</li> </ul>	
8.9	<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L Sello indicated that item 8.9 on the agenda should be changed to Department of Health.</li> <li>• L Sello indicated that drilling of boreholes as part of drought relieve will assist most communities with drinking water.</li> <li>• L Sello also indicated that JoJo tanks that supply communities with water are not sterilised and they will pose a risk to humans.</li> <li>• The JoJo tank suppliers have increased their prices since the drought has commenced.</li> <li>• It was indicated that Municipalities should ensure that all the water tanks are cleaned before supply water to the communities.</li> <li>• It was also mentioned that Sterkfontein dam is losing approximately one-million liters per day and in future the dam will run dry.</li> <li>• J Van Wyk indicated that the Sterkfontein dam is very deep and it will not easily run dry.</li> </ul>	
8.10	<p><b>WATER SECTOR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No representative attended.</li> <li>• The stakeholders suggested that L Mabotja should give feedback on this item going forward.</li> <li>• Item 8.10 will be changed to DWS-Free State on the agenda.</li> <li>• Stakeholders also suggested that CME should be included as item 8.11 on the agenda</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>WATER USE LICENCE STATUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maluti A Phofung Municipality (Kestel, Wilge, Tshiame and Phuthaditjhaba) WULAs – licence issued.</li> <li>• Nketoana Municipality WULA – licence issued.</li> <li>• Mafube Municipality (Namahadi WWTWs) WULA – outstanding information pending with the applicant.</li> <li>• Dihlabeng Municipality (Bethlehem WWTWs) WULA – licence issued.</li> <li>• Boston Hydro WULA – licence issued.</li> <li>• Clover (Pty) Ltd WULA – GA issued.</li> <li>• Kholokoeng Village Bridge WULA – GA issued.</li> <li>• Gobles folly development – licence was declined due to insufficient information.</li> <li>• SANRAL N5 Upgrade WULA – licence issued.</li> <li>• Eskom: Letsatsi and 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill 11KV powerlines WULA – licence issued.</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>POLLUTION INCIDENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Mofokeng indicated that tanker spilled cement into the unknown</li> </ul>	J Mofokeng

	stream near Swinburne and rehabilitation has already commenced. Follow up inspection will be conducted and feedback will be given in the next forum meeting.	
11.	<b>CMA PROCESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J Mofokeng indicated that Vaal River CMA is now gazetted.</li> </ul>	DWS
12	<b>DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</b>	
12.1	<b>National WQM Policy and Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J Van Wyk indicated that the policy has being revised by the Department.</li> <li>There are water quality issues experienced in the catchment areas.</li> <li>The alternative is to reuse water from WWTWs, mining industries and etc.</li> <li>The project of assisting local municipalities to manage WWTWs it was commenced in October 2015 and will continue for 24 months.</li> <li>J Van Wyk will continually update the forum stakeholders, and the next update will be given in the next forum meeting.</li> </ul>	J Van Wyk
12.2	<b>Water Week Celebration 2016</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R Hariram indicated that Wilge catchment water week will be held somewhere around April 2016 and once the date is confirmed invitation will be forwarded to the stakeholders.</li> <li>The schools (grade 4-7) should participate in the water week celebration.</li> <li>Maluti A phofung Municipality was selected to host the celebration.</li> <li>J Mofokeng will communicate with T Mphuthi to arrange different schools that will participate on the day of celebration.</li> </ul>	J Mofokeng
12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders were encouraged to support this celebration.</li> </ul> <b>Institutional arrangements at Municipalities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wilge municipalities indicated that their facing challenges with capacity which include Process controllers to run the WWTWs.</li> <li>This situation also contributes to malfunction of WWTWs.</li> <li>The forum suggested that the task team should be established to support local municipalities.</li> <li>J Mofokeng indicated that the Department has already established the task team and Phumelela was the first Municipality that was visited.</li> <li>The Municipalities that were not visited before should forward their challenges to DWS before the next forum meeting.</li> </ul>	M Machongoane
13.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> <p>16 May 2016, Mafube Local Municipality (Frankfort)</p>	
14.	<b>CLOSURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chairperson thanked everyone &amp; the meeting adjourned at 13H30.</li> </ul>	