

MINUTES WILGE RIVER FORUM

Tuesday 19 February 2019

Venue : Phumelela Municipal Office: Warden

10:00 – 13:00



No	Item	Action
1.	<p>WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairperson welcomed all attendees. 	L Ramulwela
2.	<p>INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees introduced themselves. 	all
3.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karlien de Villiers-Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) Jurgo Van Wyk- Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) Senzo Nyathikazi-Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) Noe Malise-Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) 	
4.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were adopted as a true reflection of the previous meeting with the revision of Item 7.1. 	
5.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Mofokeng to escalate the matter of poor attendance by municipalities to the Technical Director of the District Municipality. Report back in the next forum meeting. Solid waste management will be reported by municipalities going forward. Municipalities must also invite their environmental officers responsible for solid waste management in the forum meetings. 	<p>J Mofokeng</p> <p>All Municipalities</p>
6.	<p>ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilge water week awareness 	
7.	<p>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSIONS</p> <p>WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</p> <p>7.1 RAND WATER</p> <p>N Van der Walt presented the water quality report for the period of 01 October to 31 December 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WLA (Lesotho highland Ash River Outfall) and WLB (Wilge Liebenbergsvlei @ Bethlehem) – most of the variables were complying for this quarter. WJ (Jordaanspruit below Bethlehem) –there was non-compliance of ammonia, alkalinity, phosphate and nitrate for this quarter, due to impact from Bethlehem WWTWs. WLBB (Wilge River Below Bethlehem), WLR (Wilge River @Reitz & 	

<p>7.2</p>	<p>WL (Liebensbergvlei River between Tweeling & Frankfort)–the variables complied for this quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQQ (Elands River below QwaQwa)–there was non-compliance of ammonia, chloride, conductivity and M-alkalinity for this quarter. • WE (Elands River @ Aberfeldy)–most of variables were unacceptable for this quarter. • Sterk (Sterkfontein Dam) – this point is only monitored twice a year. Most of variables were acceptable. • WN (Nuwejaarspruit d/s of Sterkfontein Dam)-most of variables were complying for this quarter. • WAH (Wilge above Harrismith) – there was non-compliance of M-alkalinity, conductivity and COD for this quarter. • WH (Wilge River below Harrismith) – there was non-compliance of ammonia, M-alkalinity and nitrate for this quarter. • MR (Meul River d/s of Ribbokspruit) – this point was monitored twice in a year. Most of variables were not complying. • WMW (Wilge Meul @ Waaiwater) – there was non-compliance of M-alkalinity for this quarter. • WAF (Wilge above Frankfort) – most of variables improved for this quarter. • WF (Wilge River @ Frankfort) – there was non-compliance of <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter. • Bethlehem Sewage Works (S/W) – there was non-compliance of ammonia, COD and <i>Faecal coliforms</i> for this quarter. • Harrismith S/W- there was non-compliance of ammonia, COD and <i>Faecal coliforms</i> for this quarter due to malfunction of the WWTWs. • Tshame S/W- there was non-compliance of ammonia, COD and <i>Faecal coliforms</i> for this quarter. <p>VAAL CMA (DWS)</p> <p>J Mofokeng presented the water quality report for the period of 01 October to 31 December 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Mofokeng indicated that the in stream water quality has improved due to rains that took place in this season. • WF (Wilge River below Frankfort) – there was non-compliance of <i>Faecal coliforms</i> for this quarter. • WLA (Lesotho highland Ash River Outfall) – most of variables were acceptable for this quarter. • EQQ (Elands River below QwaQwa) – this point was only monitored once this quarter. Nitrate and <i>Faecal coliforms</i> were unacceptable. • WLS (Saulspoort Dam on Liebensbergvlei River) and WLB (Loch Athlone Dam on Jordaanriver) – most of variables were acceptable for this quarter. • Sterk (Sterkfontein Dam) and WN (Nuwejaarspruit d/s of Sterkfontein Dam) – all variables were acceptable for this quarter. • WH (Wilge River below Harrismith) – there was non-compliance of chloride and <i>Faecal coliforms</i> for this quarter. • Bethlehem S/W- there was non-compliance of ammonia, phosphate, <i>E.coli</i> and COD for this quarter due to poor performance 	
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	<p>of the WWTWs. Compliance audit was conducted on the water use licence and Dihlabeng Municipality was requested to submit an action on the findings of the audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrismith S/W- there was non-compliance of conductivity, ammonia, phosphate, <i>E.coli</i> and COD for this quarter due to poor performance of the works. • QwaQwa S/W- no samples were taken for this quarter due to very low flow at the final contact channel. • Tshiamo S/W- there was non-compliance of ammonia, phosphate, COD and <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter due to malfunction of the works. • Reitz S/W- there was non-compliance of phosphate and improvement of <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter. • Kestell S/W- there was non-compliance of phosphate and <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter. • Frankfort S/W- this point was only monitored once this quarter due to the irrigation with final effluent taking place. Nitrate and Phosphate were unacceptable. • Tweeling oxidation ponds- this point was only monitored once and the results were acceptable for this quarter except ammonia and <i>E.coli</i>. • J Mofokeng mentioned that most of the WWTWs are authorised but they don't comply with the WUL conditions. • E Matseba alluded that all municipalities must at least secure or have a budget for maintenance of the WWTWs and also improve the infrastructure to ensure that the works complies. <p>7.3 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative attended. <p>7.4 GREEN DROP SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative attended. <p>7.5 COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT (CME)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Mofokeng indicated that kestell river diversion will be issued with a compliance notice for engaging in illegal activity. Report back in the next meeting. • J Mofokeng also indicated that compliance audit was conducted at Bethlehem WWTWs and the Department is waiting for an action plan from the municipality. • The compliance notices were also issued to other municipalities in the catchment to ensure compliance on the conditions of the water use licence. 	S Nyathikazi
<p>8. 8.1</p>	<p>CATCHMENT ACTIVITIES – FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS PHUMELELA MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P Cindi indicated that a sewer blockage is still a challenge because of the community disposing debris in the sewer pipeline. • Esenzeleni Township is also experiencing challenges of manhole blockages. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P Cindi also indicated that most of the sewer pipelines within Phumelela must be replaced. The corroded steel pipe below the N3 Bridge should also be removed because it is causing a threat to the water quality. • The pump station-2 adjacent N3 was overflowing due to blockages and vandalism. • The division box at pumpstation-3 was also vandalised. • Other issues at the WWTWs are leaking of ponds and stolen of electrical line for power supply. • The municipality is planning to establish security structure to safeguard pipelines and pump stations. • P Cindi also mentioned that retaining of qualified or experienced process controllers is still a challenge. • E Matseba indicated that municipality must engage with DWS: Free State for the support of arranging community awareness within Phumelela Municipality. • P Cindi further mentioned that the municipality has secured funds to refurbish the pump stations more especially the one next to the N3 road since it poses threat to the Cornelias River. 	
8.2	<p>NKETOANA MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K Molelekwa indicated that Reitz works is not complying with the WUL. • K Molelekwa also indicated that few ponds at the works were desludged. • The other challenge is that Gert Tack (the farmer) was taking the final effluent for irrigation purposes, but the abstraction from the river was stopped by the farmer. • E Matseba indicated that the department must monitor the farmer to ensure compliance. • J Mofokeng mentioned that Gert Tack was issued with compliance notice to stop using water without authorisation. CME will give more feedback in the next forum meeting. 	S Nyathikazi
8.3	<p>DIHLABENG MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L Ramulwela suggested that item 8 (feedback from stakeholders) should reflect alphabetically on the agenda in the next forum meeting. • M Tlali indicated that Bethlehem WWTWs was designed to treat approximately 26ML/day of waste water. • There is no sampling taking place due to lack of laboratory contract. • The tender for rendering analysis of water samples was delayed and is still under evaluation. • The WWTWs is still experiencing both mechanical and electrical problems. • M Tlali also mentioned that the water use licence audit was conducted by DWS this quarter. • L Ramulwela indicated that they are struggling with water use licence system for the application of La-province pump station and they have already secured the funds for the upgrade which is very urgent. • J Mofokeng to communicate with DWS authorisation unit on the progress of the WULA. Report back in the next forum meeting. 	J Mofokeng
8.4	<p>MAFUBE MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative attended. 	

8.5	THABO MOFUTSANYANE DM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. 	
8.6	MAP Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. 	
8.7	FEZILE DABI DM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. 	
8.8	DETEA FREE STATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. 	
8.9	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. 	
8.10	DWS-FREE STATE WATER SECTOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative was present 	
9.	WATER USE LICENCE STATUS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Mofokeng mentioned that the report can be accessed under the reservoir website. 	
10	POLLUTION INCIDENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Mofokeng mentioned that all municipalities must report pollution incidents to the department as required by water use licence or the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). 	
11.	CMA PROCESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E Matseba indicated that the department is continuing with establishment of 7 CMA's. E Matseba also indicated that stakeholders will be informed with any development pertaining CMA's. 	
12	DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA Wilge Water Week Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R Hariram mentioned that Wilge forum will host another water week late this year. L Ramulwela suggested closer date for a water week awareness and it should be held in Dihlabeng Municipality. R Hariram suggested April 2019, but he still needs to confirm the date with Rand Water Edutainment team. The meeting will be held between DWS, Rand Water and Dihlabeng to organise the event and school learners will be invited to participate. 	
13.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 21 May 2019, Ntekoana Municipality chamber boardroom: Reitz.	
14.	CLOSURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The acting chairperson thanked everyone & the meeting adjourned at 13H00. 	