

Minutes of the Wilge Forum Meeting held on 20 August 2008 at Dihlabeng Municipal Parlour (Bethlehem) at 10h00

Attendance Register

Name	Company	Telephone/ Cell Number	Email address
TJ Mphuti	MAP Water	0723000826	tmphuti@mapwater.co.za
EJ Van Rensburg	DOH	0825511204	jvrense@fshealth.gov.za
LB Sello	Free State Dept of Health	0820904808	SelloLB@fshealth.gov.za
M Motlatla	Free State Dept of Health	0832569373	motlatlamf@fshealth.gov.za
T Sekhobo	Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality	0725216668 0587134413	
N Nkhutha	DBSA-Phumelela local municipality	0825137245	nomgqibelon@dbsa.org
SM Van Schalkwyk	Free State Dept of Health	058 304 1247	jvrense@fshealth.gov.za
M Likhetho	Rand Water	082 389 0347	mlikhetho@randwater.co.za
A Chabana	Dihlabeng Municipality	073 226 1012	
Lesiba Mabona	DWAF NWRP	082 476 4040	mabonal@dwaf.gov.za
D Ristic	DWAF	0829045636	RisticD@dwaf.gov.za
M Tsotetsi	Mafube Municipality	0784021912	morenat@gmail.com
N.Radebe	Mafube Municipality	0795033351	nokukhanyar@gmail.com
T. Mofokeng	Free State Dept of Health	0834109496	mofokengt@fshealth.gov.za

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
1	Welcome Mr Cindi welcomed all the attendees.	
2	Introduction of attendees All attendees introduced themselves.	
3	Apologies Absent with apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Weyers • H Mthembu • T. Mofokeng • J malungani • K. Chetty Absent without apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Herbst • H Maringa • Q Molo • D Van Aswegen • J Jacobs • J Van Zyl • T Makume • BS Negovha 	

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP Motlatla • MS Ntsatsi • Jurgo Van Wyk • S Moeti • RN Pule • M Mabena • C Wilcock • NP Magudulela • RS Rakhale • KC Lekgetho • A Mosima • M Mihi 	
4	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting (Corrections) The minutes were correct except on the time for the meeting where there was a typing error.</p>	<i>DWAF will rectify all the mistakes in the minutes. .</i>
5	<p>Acceptance of the Minutes The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting held on 21 May 2008 at Nketoane Municipality (Rietz VKB Training Centre).</p>	
6	<p>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWAF indicated that it will set up a meeting with MAP water and the Fish breeding community based organization that are intending to utilize QwaQwa Waste Water Treatment Works maturation ponds to breed fishes. • DWAF representative together with other forum members with the assistance of Rand Water sanitation division conducted an assessment at 6 Waste Water Treatment Works in the Wilge Catchment namely: Frakfort, Kestel, Phuthaditjhaba, Bethlehem, Harismith and Tshiamé. The forum still awaits the report and it will be discussed at the next forum meeting to identify the loopholes and the shortfalls and come up with ways on how to close them. • It was agreed that the final effluent sample at Harrismith sewage works will be taken after the chlorination point and not where it was previously taken – outside the plant after the maturation ponds. DWAF is now taking samples at the right sampling point. • DWAF indicated that there is no need to do sampling at the same time with Rand Water and MAP Water as taking a sample is part of monitoring and auditing and the officer can do it any time without informing people at a particular waste water Treatment Plant. Rand Water, MAP water and DWAF should do sampling according to their own schedule. • DWAF together with MAP water will investigate a heap of sludge that is 	<i>DWAF to Coordinate the meeting</i>

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
	<p>next to Nuwejaarspruit and an alleged pollution in Swinburne that is caused by waste water that comes from old houses where people stay illegally and do not have proper sanitation facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWAF together with MAP water will investigate the cause of high Faecal coliform count at Elands river below QwaQwa <p>DWAF will look into the issue of taking water samples at Indabazo landfill site in Harrismith and assist if possible.</p>	<p>DWAF and MAP to Investigate.</p>
7	<p>Additions to the Agenda and Approval of the Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health. • Assessment of Sewage Works. <p>The agenda was approved with a condition that should there be any items arising; they will be dealt with under General.</p>	
8	<p>Items for Presentation</p> <p>D Ristic indicated that National water Resource Strategy studies will be finalised by the end of October 2008. Pamphlets on the Public meeting: Vaal river system studies were given out</p>	

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9	<p>Water Quality in the Vaal Dam Catchment</p> <p>DWAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWAF presented water quality status of Wilge catchment with reference to the problematic areas and sewage works. Please refer to the handouts given. All sewage works are problematic with variables such as <i>faecal coliforms</i>, <i>E. coli</i>, Sulphate, Ammonia and Nitrates. DWAF indicated that there is high Ecoli and Faecal Coliforms in streams in Wilge catchment. <p>Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rand Water presented their water quality status of Wilge Catchment with reference to the problematic areas and sewage works. Please refer to the handouts given. All sewage works in the catchment are problematic. <p>L Mabona had previously distributed copies on CD of DWAF's sewage works operational manual. Request was made for more copies of this CD.</p>	
10	<p>Report back from Stakeholders in the Wilge Catchment</p> <p>Phumelela Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Cindi indicated there will be a total upgrade of the whole Sewage Works and currently the pumps were fitted at the pump stations as well as at the sewage works. There will be a 24hrs shift at the Sewage works to make sure that the sewage Works runs all the time. A meeting was held between Phumelela and Department Of Local Government about MIG funds (Municipal Infrastructure Funds) that are incomplete. Three Engineers are appointed by the municipality for the construction of the Sewage Works. Recently private contractors have been appointed by the municipality to manage all the pump stations in Warden in terms of the electrical and mechanical functioning. The municipality is experiencing cable theft at the Sewage Works and these tempers with the smooth flow of the running of the Sewage works. There is a pending case on the cable theft. 	

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	<p>Nketoane Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no representative from the Municipality to give a report back. <p>Dihlabeng Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition of the sewage works at Dihlabeng Municipality (Bethlehem) is improving because most of the pumps in the plant are working and maintenance is better. • There are funds that are put aside (Budget) for the maintenance of the Sewage works. • There is a continuous training for all the operators at the Sewage Works. <p>Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small laboratory will be built at Frankfort. • Sewage works and pump stations at Frankfort are not in a good working state but there is tender out to fix pump stations. • There is a concern on the re-use of the sewage effluent at Namahadi sewage works. The farmer still uses final effluent at his farm. <p>Maluti a Phofung Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upgrade of Activated Sludge Reactor is complete and is now up and functioning. • More operators were employed at MAP and there was also practical training for students. • There is also suspected pollution near Nuwejaarspruit from dumped sewage sludge. <p>Free State Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free State Environmental Health indicated that they will identify an area where they will do environmental education and the programme will be communicated to the Wilge Catchment forums. • Bucket eradication is done through MIG funds. • Spillage in QwaQwa industrial areas has been fixed. • Free State Environmental Health will request PSTT to evaluate the Sewage Plant. • Water Samples will be taken at Nketoane Municipality. <p>Thabo Mufutsanyane District Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Sekhobo from TMDM indicated that they will open an account with an accredited laboratory where water samples can be taken to for analysis. Environmental health Practitioners will coordinate this laboratory. 	<p><i>DWAF to investigate if the farmer is still using sewage effluent for irrigation of his crops</i></p> <p><i>DWAF to investigate</i></p> <p><i>DWAF to assist with education material like posters</i></p>
11	<p>Water use Licence Applications Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No municipalities applied for a license yet. Municipalities were urged to apply for their water use licenses as soon as possible 	<p><i>DWAF will assist in the application process and provide the required application forms and guideline documents</i></p>

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12	<p>. Catchment Management Agency (CMA) update/Waste Discharge Charge System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are updated water use registration forms on DWAF intranet and all water users should complete the forms. 	
13	<p>Discussion of Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Assessment of the Sewage Works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Likhetho indicated that DWAF representative together with other forum members with the assistance of Rand Water sanitation division conducted an assessment at 6 Waste Water Treatment Works in the Wilge Catchment namely: Frakfort, Kestel, Phuthaditjhaba, Bethlehem, Harismith and Tshiame. The assessment was done in two days and it was worthwhile as it will help to identify the loopholes and the shortfalls and come up with ways on how to close them. <p>Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free State Environmental Health indicated that they will identify an area where they will do environmental education and the programme will be communicated to the Wilge Catchment forums. • Bucket eradication is done through MIG funds. • Spillage in QwaQwa industrial areas has been fixed. • Free State Environmental Health will request PSTT to evaluate the Sewage Plant. • Water Samples will be taken at Nketoane Municipality. 	
14	<p>General</p> <p>Pollution Incidents No pollution Incident was reported to the Department recently.</p> <p>New developments in catchment DWAF received no application for any development lately, the last application that was received was an application from Mafube Municipality on a proposed township development in Namahadi and DWAF commented on it.</p> <p>Waste Management There was no representative from DEAT to give feedback on Waste Management.</p>	

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15	Date of the next meeting: 19 November 2008 Venue: Frankfort Library Hall	
16	Closure Chairperson thanked all for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 13h30.	