

MINUTES WILGE RIVER FORUM

Tuesday 18 February 2020

Venue : Nketoana Municipality Reitz, Council Chambers

10:00 – 13:00



| No | Item | Action |
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| 1. | <p>WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairperson welcomed all attendees. | R Hariram |
| 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) Khathu Mudau- Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) Hulisani Mashavhele- Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) Phillimon Khwinana- 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. | |
| 5. | <p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K Molelekwa indicated that sanitation manager who was supposed to give a feedback on the CME action plan has resigned; therefore he will communicate with Municipal Manager and report back in the next forum meeting. N Mbele indicated that feedback regarding decommissioning of the Frankfort oxidation ponds will be given in the next forum meeting. M Mokhobo to find out the mandate of the district municipality with regard to enforcement of WWTWs. M Mokhobo to find out on the issues of bylaws being enforced on abattoir since causing problems to Harrismith WWTWs. | <p>K Molelekwa</p> <p>N Mbele</p> <p>M Mokhobo</p> <p>M Mokhobo</p> |
| 6. | <p>ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additions to the agenda. | |
| 7. | <p>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSIONS</p> <p>WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</p> | |
| 7.1 | <p>RAND WATER</p> <p>N Van der Walt presented the water quality report for the period of 01 October to 31 December 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WLA (Lesotho highland Ash River Outfall) – most of the variables were complying for this quarter. WLB (Wilge Liebenbergsvlei @ Bethlehem) – unacceptable levels of Fluoride and Nitrates. | |

- WJ (Jordaanspruit below Bethlehem) –there was non-compliance of Ammonia, Fluoride, Alkalinity, Nitrate and Phosphate for this quarter, due to impact of WWTWs.
- WLBB (Wilge River below Bethlehem) and WLR (Wilge River @Reitz) most variables complied except fluoride for this quarter.
- WL (Liebensbergvlei River between Tweeling & Frankfort) – unacceptable levels of Fluoride for this quarter.
- EQQ (Elands River below QwaQwa) and WE (Elands River @ Aberfeldy) –there was non-compliance of Ammonia, Chloride, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Fluoride, Alkalinity and Phosphate for this quarter.
- Sterk (Sterkfontein Dam) – this point was only monitored twice a year and most of variables were acceptable.
- WN (Nuwejaarspruit d/s of Sterkfontein Dam)-most of variables were complying except Fluoride for this quarter.
- WAH (Wilge above Harrismith) – there was non-compliance of Alkalinity, EC and COD for this quarter.
- WH (Wilge River below Harrismith) – there was non-compliance of Ammonia, Fluoride, Alkalinity and Nitrate for this quarter.
- MR (Meul River d/s of Ribbokspruit) and WM (Mollen River @ Letuka) – these points were monitored twice in a year and there was non-compliance of Ammonia and Nitrate for this quarter.
- WMW (Wilge Meul @ Waaiwater) – there was non-compliance of Fluoride and Alkalinity for this quarter.
- WC (Cornelis River below Warden) - this point was monitored twice a year due to low flows during dry season and there was non-compliance of COD, Chloride, Fluoride and Alkalinity.
- WAF (Wilge above Frankfort) – most of variables improved for this quarter.
- WF (Wilge River @ Frankfort) – there was non-compliance of Fluoride, Alkalinity and *E.coli* for this quarter.
- Bethlehem Sewage Works (S/W) – there was non-compliance of Ammonia, COD and *Faecal coliforms* for this quarter.
- Harrismith S/W- there was non-compliance of ammonia, COD and *Faecal coliforms* for this quarter due to malfunction of the WWTWs.
- Qwa-Qwa S/W- no flow for this quarter.
- Tshame S/W- there was non-compliance of ammonia, COD, *Faecal coliforms* and Fluoride for this quarter.

7.2

DWS

J Mofokeng presented the water quality report for the period of 01 October to 31 December 2019:

- J Mofokeng indicated that most of in-stream water quality points have improved due to rain that took place in this season.
- WF (Wilge River below Frankfort) – most of variables were acceptable except *Faecal coliforms* for this quarter.
- WLA (Lesotho highland Ash River Outfall) – only one month was sampled at this point due to the maintenance that took place from October to November 2019 and most of variables were acceptable.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQQ (Elands River below QwaQwa) – EC, Chloride, Ammonia, COD and <i>Faecal coliforms</i> were unacceptable for this quarter. • WLS (Saulspoort Dam on Liebensbergvlei River) – there was a compliance for this quarter. • WLB (Loch Athlone Dam on Jordaanriver) – EC was at tolerable and <i>Faecal coliforms</i> was unacceptable for the month of October and November. • Sterk (Sterkfontein Dam) and WN (Nuwejaarspruit d/s of Sterkfontein Dam – there was compliance for this quarter. • WH (Wilge River below Harrismith) – there was non-compliance of Chloride and Ammonia for the month of October. • Bethlehem S/W- there was non-compliance of Ammonia, phosphate, <i>E.coli</i> and COD for this quarter due to poor performance of the WWTWs. • Harrismith S/W- there was non-compliance of Ammonia, Phosphate, <i>E.coli</i> and COD for this quarter due to poor performance of the WWTWs. • QwaQwa S/W- no samples were taken for this quarter due to no flow. • Warden S/W- there was non-compliance of Ammonia and <i>E .coli</i> for this quarter. • Tshiamé S/W- there was non-compliance of Ammonia, COD and <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter. • Reitz S/W- there was no flow due to abstraction of final effluent by the farmer for irrigation purposes. • Kestell S/W- there was non-compliance of Ammonia, Phosphate and <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter. • Frankfort S/W- there was non-compliance of Ammonia, Phosphate and <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter. • Tweeling oxidation ponds- there was non-compliance of Ammonia, Phosphate and <i>E.coli</i> for this quarter • L Nqelenga indicated that the issue of abstraction of effluent at Reitz WWTWs is under investigation and feedback will be given in the next forum meeting. | L Nqelenga |
| 7.3 | <p>SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N Malise indicated that he managed to get contact details of the Director of DETEA Fee State and the contacts will be forwarded to J Mofokeng to invite relevant official to attend forum meetings. | |
| 7.4 | <p>GREEN DROP SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No representative attended. | |
| 7.5 | <p>COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT (CME)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L Nqelenga indicated that DWS conducted inspections during the maintenance of Lesotho Highlands project ash river outfall in October and November 2019. • He further indicated that thirteen compliance notices were issued to the farmers which were not complying. | |

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| 7.6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site inspection was also conducted around kestell regarding illegal activity and notice was issued. <p>DWS-FREE STATE WATER SERVICES REGULATION</p> <p>No representative was present</p> | |
| 8. | CATCHMENT ACTIVITIES – FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS | |
| 8.1 | <p>DETEA FREE STATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. | |
| 8.2 | <p>DIHLABENG MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Tlali indicated that the mechanical and electrical equipment breakdowns are still a challenge. Delays in payment of service providers it is also a challenge. The municipality has also put measures in place by identifying 14 general workers which are currently undergoing NQF 2 training. The letter was submitted to the Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer to intervene. There is R16 500 000 WSIG approved project for the refurbishment of Bethlehem WWTWs in place. M Tlali indicated that the chlorine room has been refurbished. Online Dissolve Oxygen meter will be installed. The municipality is currently updating the risk abatement plan. M Tlali also indicated that it is difficult to set time frames for SOP, due to financial involvement. | |
| 8.3 | <p>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. | |
| 8.4 | <p>FEZILE DABI DM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. | |
| 8.5 | <p>MAFUBE MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. | |
| 8.6 | <p>MAP Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. | |
| 8.7 | <p>NKETOANA MUNICIPALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K Molelekwa indicated that pump stations are still operational. The spillages that took place were due to debris disposed in the sewer lines. K Molelekwa also indicated that awareness will be rolled out to the community with support from DWS. The WWTWs is still operating beyond its capacity. The water samples are analysed at accredited laboratory one a month. The results are not complying with licence standards due to malfunctioning of the WWTWs. K Molelekwa also indicated that uploading of results is still taking place. | |

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| 8.8 | THABO MOFUTSANYANE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No representative attended. | |
| 8.9 | PHUMELA MUNICIPALITY No representative attended. | |
| 8.10 | HYDRO POWER PLANT (KRUISVALLEI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of kruisvallei hydro plant has commenced although is behind its schedule, which was supposed to be completed by end of April 2020. It was also noted that in terms of the conditions of water use licence, Kruisvallei is not contravening. R Hariram indicated that this item should also appear on the agenda. | |
| 9. | WATER USE LICENCE STATUS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E Matseba mentioned that five water use authorisations were issued. He further indicated that out of that five, three were General Authorisations. One application was withdrawn by the applicant. The last one was closed by DWS due to insufficient information. Other five applications are still under various stages of assessment in the department. E Matseba also mentioned that should stakeholders requires clarity on specific licences, they are welcome to contact J Mofokeng for assistance. | |
| 10 | POLLUTION INCIDENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Mofokeng mentioned that pollution incident was attended at Petsana in previous quarter and notices were issued to Nketoana. J Mofokeng also indicated that municipalities are not reporting pollution incidents which are a contravening the act as well as conditions of the licence. DWS has issued pre-directives with time-frames to the municipalities which are not complying. | |
| 11. | CMA PROCESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E Matseba indicated that the status on CMA has not changed. He also indicated that the submission was done previously requesting the current minister to continue with the advisory committee which was appointed by the previous minister. It is now close to 9 months with no feedback from the office of minister. | |
| 12 | DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additions to the agenda. | |
| 13. | DATE OF NEXT MEETING 19 May 2020, Dihlabeng Municipality: Bethlehem. | |
| 14. | CLOSURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The acting chairperson thanked everyone & the meeting adjourned at | |

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| | 13H00. | |
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