

Minutes of the Wilge Forum Meeting held on 20 May 2009 at Warden (Phumelela Municipal Offices) at 10h00

Attendance Register

Name	Company	Telephone/ Cell Number	Email address
Makhubele Louis	DWAF	082 8886391	makhul@dwaf.gov.za
EJ Van Rensburg	DOH	0825511204	jvrense@fshealth.gov.za
LB Sello	DOH	0587130515	Sellolb.fshealth.gov.za
T Sekhobo	TDM	0728216668	teboho@map.fs.gov.za
SM Van Schalkwyk	Free State Dept of Health	058 304 1247	jvrense@fshealth.gov.za
S.Weyers	MAP water	08243314198	fweyers@mapwater.co.za
Lesiba Mabona	DWAF	082 476 4040	mabonal@dwaf.gov.za
P.J Dejager	Nketoane Municipality	0760182450	
N.P Cindi	Phumelela Municipality	0768847324	
J.f Kok	Phumelela Municipality	084 201 2000	
K. Legegeru	DOH	0836927563	
T. Mofokeng	DOH	0834109496	mosebetsi@yahoo.com
H Maringa	Phumelela Municipality	07223335877	
R.P Shibambo	DWAF	0739756108	Shibambor@dwaf.gov.za
G.J Modisaotsile	Dihlabeng Municipality	0826726556	Gjm@fshealth.gov.za
Z Rajele	Rand Water	0835661974	
T.P Boikhutso	Rand Water	0823890152	
M.A.B Mosima	Dihlabeng Municipality	0836832348	commserv@dihlabeng.co.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"> • K. Chetty • M Likhetho • N.Radebe • J Malungani • T Mphuti • J.A Viljoen Absent without apologies:	

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Herbst • A Chabana 	
4	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting (Corrections) Kestel sewage works was not part of the assessment that was conducted by the forum at several sewage works in the Wilge catchment as indicated in the minutes.</p> <p>Intabazwe was misspelt.</p> <p>Rand Water Sanitation Section was not invited to attend the meeting to explain in detail the report for Sewage Works as indicated in the minutes.</p>	<p><i>DWAF will rectify all the mistakes in the minutes. .</i></p>
5	<p>Acceptance of the Minutes The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting held on 20 May 2009 at Warden (Phumelela Municipal offices)</p>	
6	<p>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</p> <p>17. Intabazwe landfill site visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr J.A Viljoen contacted a person who knew where the boreholes are at Intabazwe landfill site but even the person could not locate them. <p>6.2 Sewarage Works assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rand Water Sanitation Section gave a presentation to explain in detail the report for Sewage Works assesment that was conducted at Waste Water Treatment Works in the Wilge Catchment namely: Frakfort, Phuthaditjhaba, Bethlehem, Harismith and Tshiame. In the presentation it was indicated that operation and maintenance at the sewage works is poor. Variables such as phosphate, phosphorus etc indicated high concentration. The municipalities were requested to further interrogate the report and implement the recommendations. Municipalities were again advised to appoint consultants where they are unable to implement some of the recommendations. <p>6.3 Water Quality investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWAF representative together with J.A Viljoen conducted an investigation at the surrounding area of Wilge below Harismith to find out the cause of high Faecal coliform count at the points; hot spots were identified such as leaking man holes and the old hotel that is upstream of the point. This might contribute to a certain extent of high Faecal coliform count at the points • The representative from DWAF also made an investigation at the surrounding area of Elands River below QwaQwa sampling points to check what might be the cause of high Faecal coliform at the point and a it is suspected that the pump stations that is nearby the points might be the cause of the problem.Samples are now taken at Warden and Frankfort Waste Water Treatment plant as promised. 	

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
7	<p>Additions to the Agenda and Approval of the Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water week celebration • Blue Drop / Green Drop • Registration of all water users. <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>8.1 Sewage Works Assessment Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rand water presented the sewage assessment report 	
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. Most of the sewage works are not complying with variables such as <i>faecal coliforms</i>, <i>E. coli</i>, Ammonia and Nitrates. Bethlehem, Harismith, Frankfort, Warden and Kestel Sewage Works indicated high Ecoli . DWAF indicated that there is high Ecoli and Faecal Coliforms counts in streams in Wilge catchment especially in the Elands river below QwaQwa and Wilge River below Harismith. It was indicated that General standards are used at the sewage works while instream water quality guidelines are used for points that are on the streams. <p>Rand Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rand Water water quality status of Wilge Catchment, the report indicated that at Bethlehem, Harismith, QwaQWa and Tshiame Sewage Works there are discharging high Ecoli count and the concentration of Ammonia, COD, Chlorine, EC Fluoride is too high. This report would be made available on www.reservoir.co.za if anyone wants to access it. 	
10	<p>Report back from Stakeholders in the Wilge Catchment</p> <p>Phumelela Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a sewer spillage at pump station No1 but now the problem is fixed. The sewer network need to be upgraded as is now under capacity. • Recently consultants were appointed to help with the compiling of the Water Use License application and it will be submitted to DWAF as soon as they finish. • The municipality is experiencing cable theft at the Sewage Works and these tempers with the smooth running of the Sewage works. There is also a pending case on cable theft. 	

DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a learnership programme where learners are trained by DWAF, and are deployed to the municipality. <p>Nketoane Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a sewage spillage at the pump station that is next to the golf course because of a broken pipe but it has been fixed and everything is now back to normal. • There is a piggery next to the bank of the river and this is a concern as it can impact negatively in the terms of the water quality of the river. • There are now two operators at the Rietz waste water treatment plant and the plant is now operating 24hrs. <p>Dihlabeng Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported that COD, Ammonia, Nitrates, Phosphate, Suspended Solids, Chlorides concentration is high at Bethlehem sewage Works. • Pump station failures, Manhole blockages, sewer spillages that happened in the last quarter were reported. • Dihlabeng promised to submit their Water Use Licence application for Bethlehem Sewage Works before the end of June 2009. • The application for classification of operators will be made during June 2009. <p>Mafube Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no representative from the Municipality to give a report back. <p>Maluti a Phofung Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality promised to submit their Water Use Licence for QwaQwa, Harismith and Tshiame Sewage Works to DWAF. • It was reported that learnerships and In-service training has started. SETA has budget available to train students. • <p>Free State Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health Practitioners took samples in Warden reservoir for the analysis of Ecoli. The water tested positive for Ecoli, the reservoir was cleaned as it was suspected that they were dirty. • It was also reported that there are a lot of shacks next to the river in Warden and this might contribute negatively to the water quality as people do not have proper sanitation facilities. <p>Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality</p>	

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
	<p>Thabo Mofutsanyane district municipality indicated that they appreciated the effort that is being made by the local municipalities in tackling water quality issues.</p>	
11	<p>Water use Licence Applications Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No municipalities applied for a Water Use Licence yet except Maluti a Phofung • Phumelela, Mafube, Nketoane and Dihlabeng also indicated that they have appointed consultants to help them with the application and they will submit in due course. 	<p><i>DWAF will assist in the application process and provide the required application forms and guideline documents</i></p>
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 internet and all discharge related water use should complete the forms. • There will be an appointment in the Department of someone who is going to run the CMA process 	
13	<p>Discussion of Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Water week celebration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wilge Water Week celebration was held in Kestel. • The forum was not happy with the arrangements of logistics like transportation and catering which led to the celebration starting late. • The forum consent that in the next Water week the forum will write a letter to the municipality to ask if they agree to host the event and commit themselves thereof. <p>Standard Format for Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard format for reporting for all the municipalities is crucial as it makes reporting simple for all the delegates especially new ones that do not exactly know what to report on. <p>Registration of Water Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWAF will send formal letters and legal notices to all water users in the catchment to notify them to register their water uses. Registration forms will also be distributed. 	<p>DWAF will send letters to the municipality to inform them.</p>

	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
	<p data-bbox="293 416 608 450">Blue Drop /Green Drop</p> <ul data-bbox="293 483 1254 577" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="293 483 1254 577">• Maluti a phofung took part in the blue drop. It is a legal requirement that all the municipalities should take part in it. DWAF person has to be invited to the forum to explain in details what entails Blue Drop. 	<p data-bbox="1278 483 1533 546">DWAF to present in the next meeting.</p>
14	<p data-bbox="245 613 352 647">General</p> <p data-bbox="245 680 507 714">Pollution Incidents</p> <p data-bbox="245 748 946 781">No pollution Incidents were reported in the last quarter.</p> <p data-bbox="245 815 695 848">New developments in catchment</p> <p data-bbox="245 882 1190 916">DWAF received no application for any new development in the last quarter.</p> <p data-bbox="245 949 520 983">Waste Management</p> <p data-bbox="245 983 1254 1046">There was no representative from DEAT to give feedback on Waste Management.</p>	
15	<p data-bbox="245 1171 799 1205">Date of the next meeting: 19 August 2009</p> <p data-bbox="245 1205 799 1238">Venue: Reitz (Nketoane Municipal Offices)</p>	
16	<p data-bbox="245 1265 357 1299">Closure</p> <p data-bbox="245 1299 1254 1361">Chairperson thanked all for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 13h30.</p>	