

# MAP FORUM MEETING

MORELETA / APIES / PIENAARS RIVER SUB-CATCHMENT

Date : 17 MAY 2022 (TUESDAY)

Time : 10h00 - 12h00

Venue : DWS TRAINING CENTRE, ROODEPLAAT

Chair: Ms. Erica Bergman

Scribe: Mrs. Yola Geldenhuys



ITEM	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1)	WELCOME	The chair Erica Bergman welcomed attendees.	
2)	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	<p>An Attendance Register was circulated at the Meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by Erica Bergman (Chair), Yola Geldenhuys (ICE), Kerneels Esterhuys (COT Sanitation), Daryl Johnston (MMC Utilities), Kobus Fell (Roodeplaat dam), Selwyn Jackson (Rowing SA), Mathabo Phoka (GDARD), Rachel Mpe (DWS), Tumelo Koiteng (Hammanskraal RA), Bonke Mkhonto (Temba CA), Hangwi Akinwekomi (Magalies Water), Ntombizodwa Mlathi (COT), Ananias Mamabolo (DWS), Tsheamo Mogale (GDARD), Mpho Kadi (GDARD).</p> <p>Apologies were received from Eustathia Bofilatos (DWS), CJ Erasmus (Bon Accord Irrigation Scheme), Estelle Cronje (Radio Pretoria), Flip Joubert (ICE), Frederick Malleson (Hazeldean Farm/Pienaars River), Kevin Gast (Gast Refinery), Hubert Kingston (City Planning Matters), March Leroy (GDARD), Mike Plisic (Bon Accord Irrigation Board), Wietsche Roets (DWS), Stephen Moore (assistant to MMC) and Liame van der Westhuizen (ARC), David Ntsove (COT Water).</p>	
3)	PREVIOUS MINUTES	Accepted without change.	
4)	RATIFICATION OF AGENDA		
5)	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
5.1	Baviaanspoort Wastewater Treatment Works	<p>Kerneels Esterhuys reported that current inflow is 65 - 68 ML per day. Treatment capacity is 53 ML per day - this is still not enough treatment capacity. Current installation of secondary sanitation tanks will increase treatment capacity to 56 ML per day.</p> <p>Maintenance is up to date, but the maintenance plan is not sufficiently funded. Water quality - no sludge has been discharged and water is clean. Primary sludge is currently being directly pumped to the reactors due to vandalism of the sludge treatment lands. Security - no issues with securities on site due to smart systems installed there.</p>	

		<p>Selwyn Jackson asked whether disinfection is being done. Kerneels responded that chlorine has been ordered, but while the ammonia and the suspended solids are high in the affluent, they cannot achieve any disinfection until that drops to the required levels. He explained that excess ammonia takes up all the chlorine, so disinfection will have no effect.</p> <p>The question was raised whether any upgrades are being done. Kerneels indicated that upgrades have been done and project is completed.</p>	
5.2	<b>Zeekoegat Wastewater Treatment Works</b>	<p>Current inflow is between 80 and 92 ML per day. Treatment capacity is 70 ML per day. Plans are underway to upgrade the plant to 85 megalitres a day.</p> <p>Unexpected problems arose due to multiple equipment failures. Maintenance was done and primary settling tanks are unblocked and operational. Screens at the inlet works are operational. Sludge dewatering is currently not in operation, as they are waiting for delivery of poly-electrolites to assist with sludge dewatering. The dissolved air operation is operational, but it is limited in the design capacity to thicken the sludge and to dewater it. That will be part of the planned upgrade project. Power has been restored to the disinfection unit and waiting for delivery and installation of other parts. Kerneels indicated that this will be operational as soon as the parts have been delivered and installed - expected time is before end of financial year (end of June). The plant already has chlorine for the disinfection.</p> <p>The Forum noted (previous minutes) an improvement in the water quality coming from both Baviaanspoort and Zeekoegat - this was reported by both Kerneels and community.</p>	
5.3	<b>Rooiwal Wastewater Treatment Works</b>	<p><b>Rooiwal</b> wastewater works has minimum treatment work capacity. Phase 1 upgrade was introduced to add additional treatment capacity.</p> <p>Maintenance is continuing - Limited funding has been brought under the attention of the MMC for Finance. Kerneels reported the MMC Finance indicated his commitment to assistance with funding in new financial year.</p> <p><b>Phase 1 upgrade</b></p> <p>Physical work is at 68% but should have been at 80%. Due to a conflict between the Joint Venture Partners and subcontractors on site, currently nothing is happening with the upgrade. All invoices have been paid to the Contractor, but he has failed to pay the suppliers.</p> <p>Several interventions were tried. The Consultant recommended that the Contract be transferred to another Contractor - due to be implemented from 6 May. The MMC of Utilities Daryl Johnston reported that a meeting was scheduled for this afternoon to discuss this matter with the Department. The Implementing Agent advised that terminating the contract at this stage, considering that progress is at 68%, will be premature and should be explored as a last remedy. MMC Johnston reported that the Department is working on the matter and they are trying to find solutions to the problem. These problems are impacting on completion of Phase 1 and currently there is no progress.</p> <p>Erica questioned the budget for Phase 1. The mayor's State of the City address referred to R325 million to be spent at Rooiwal, compared to the approved budget of R150 Million. Kerneels indicated that Mayor probably referred to a 2-to-</p>	

		<p>3-year project, but R150 is available in this financial year. It is expected that the R325 Million refers to the multi-year total for Phase 1.</p> <p><b>Phase 2 upgrade</b></p> <p>Planning is underway for an additional 80 ML per day treatment capacity. Specifications are submitted and reviewed by the Bid Adjudication Committee. It was hoped that approval could be obtained by the BAC on 11 May, but this is not yet in place. As soon as approval is obtained, the project will commence with the appointment of the consultant for the drawings, planning and tender. This will be a multi-year project and the Department needs to source funding for about R2 billion.</p> <p>MMC Johnston reported that provisional interaction has taken place with national treasury with regards to possible projects and they are looking at all avenues with regards to funding - this is a 2-way interaction process. GTech - technical division advisory service to the national treasury - is open to looking at large scale projects.</p> <p>Kerneels indicated that Council is looking at alternative technologies to improve water qualities with Phase 2. Erica stated that it is especially important within smaller municipalities to look at alternative technologies to treat wastewater.</p> <p><b>Daily management</b></p> <p>Erica scolded Tshwane on the daily management of the plant. During a visit on site, whereby she freely accessed the site, this site was poorly managed. A no point during her 2 hours on site, did anyone question her authority to be on site or what she was doing. Council conceded that access control must be improved and that this is a huge concern not only for wastewater treatments, but for all national strategic key points.</p> <p>Of 9 blowers only 1 was working, with all electrical screens showing fault messages. The 2022 Greendrop report indicated that all blowers are working, however they were found not to be operational during the visit. This appears to be a software issue. This must be addressed and managed better.</p> <p>Erica reported that 6 of 18 settling tanks were working. Kerneels explained that there was no inflow to the tanks as 1 reactor is empty so that it can be replaced as part of Phase 1 upgrade. Erica stated that only 1 of the 3 reactor tanks that she saw were empty (there are 6 reactors). Only 1 blower was working in the reactor. Erica pointed that she did not see all of the plant. From reports received, the belt presses are still not working.</p> <p>Management of rest of plant and day-to-day running remain the biggest issue. Kerneels requested that formal visits be organised so that processes can properly be explained. National Water Monitor also raised their concerns about daily management and their requests for access to the plant that was ignored. Kerneels and the MMC raised concerns that previous requests for visits have been ignored.</p>	COT
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5.4	<b>Green Drop Report 2022</b>	<p>Erica congratulated DWS on the 2022 Greendrop Report. The report summarises the wastewater situation in Gauteng, and compares various Treatment Works and results obtained by the different municipalities.</p> <p>Erica indicated that there is a discrepancy in the report regarding the value of WWTW infrastructure. The Report refers to R168 million to address the wastewater infrastructure in Tshwane, but Tshwane says it needs R17 billion for repairs. It was indicated 2 years ago that R50 million is required to repair Klipgat alone.</p> <p>MMC Johnston said it is a problem trying to budget on a fixed percentage rate proposed to a zero-cost basic budgeting system. He suggested that the cost of Phase 2 should be looked at when calculating the budget of a WWTW.</p> <p>It was noted that Tshwane is currently spending the most on wastewater treatment out of all the municipalities and the Forum thanked them for the work that they are doing to address historic legacies.</p>	

		<p>Kerneels was specifically mentioned in the Report for excellent work done. The Forum congratulated Kerneels on his achievement.</p>	
5.5	Water Quality	<p>Bonke Nkondo requested feedback on Water Quality and pollution in the Apies River downstream of Rooiwal.</p> <p>Kerneels reported that he will escalate this to the River Water Quality Department. If they do not prepare for this Forum, Kerneels will escalate this do that Kerneels can present at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Forum formally requested that Water Quality Test results be shared by Tshwane as a matter of course, Erica stated that persons present are specialists and chairpersons who understand that this information need to be treated sensitively and should not be shared indiscriminately. The City undertook to consider this.</p> <p>Esmey raised the question why DWS is hesitant to share the Water Quality Results with the Forum, as this information is readily shared with other Forums. This is important information to determine problems such as pollutions. Erica pointed out that Lilian Siwelane was requested to present at the last 4 meetings.</p> <p>It was agreed that Erica will request Wendy Relakoa to have regular reporting on this matter at the Forum. Magalies Water also requested feedback on pollution and the interventions so that we can get a better picture of what is happening on the ground. It was agreed to ask for comparative data to see changes over time.</p> <p>Esmey will also try to co-ordinate it from her side as well so that we can have feedback by the next meeting on water quality.</p>	<p>Kerneels Esterhuysen</p> <p>Erica Bergman / Esmey madumo</p>
5.6	River Health	<p>Mpho Kadi from GDARD presented on the Gauteng Environment Sustainability Report 2021. This is reviewed every 5 years.</p> <p>They study river health with analysis over years and evaluate whether situations have improved or gotten worse. This strategy is to strengthen our management with river health.</p> <p>The report details the quantity of the state as well as quality. This is used to analyse and understand what is the data on the ground, implement positive interventions such as management of treatment works at municipal level, site visits, etc. They are constantly investigating new ways of doings things to improve management.</p> <p>Data is used to convert into information to assist with funding requests.</p> <p>Issues such as river pollution, REMP (River Eco-Status Monitoring Programme), the abundance of biological activity is used to measure change in the state of rivers. Measuring biota inhabiting river ecosystems provide direct, holistic and integrated measures for riparian habitats and fishing communities and determine the ecological status of a river.</p> <p>Challenges experienced are some of the monitoring points have no data due to high sewer deposits, no water flow, no safe access to site during sampling periods, sampling sites are discontinued and lack of human capacities to cover all sample points. There are 37 sampling points with 14 points not sampled during 2021/2022 period. The catchment is</p>	

		<p>highly developed with residential, industrial, mining and agricultural sectors. Overall eco-status of the Crocodile (West) Marico Water Management Agency is poor. All sampling sites were below 5, which means rivers status are poor.</p> <p>Main polluters in the catchments were found to be industries, residential developments, and currently sewerage treatment plants.</p> <p>The Pienaarsriver has good quality water. Summer results of 2021 showed that Apies had good water quality, but was heavily influenced with the heavy rains. Rivers close to the border of the catchments are all poor quality. Mpho stated that DWS need to bring updated water quality results so that they can compare the figures presented are indeed correct.</p> <p>Mpho recommended prevention and degradation of aquatic ecosystems, water use and abstraction control, compliance to water quality campaigns, compliance monitoring and enforcement, fixing sewerage treatment works, increasing capacity of treatment plants and formalising informal townships to address poor river health. Existing sewerage infrastructure/systems already in place must be better utilised.</p> <p>GDARD identified the need for better coordination required between Building control, Town planning, Housing Departments, etc. to ensure better management and utilisation of infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Erica pointed out that the City is doing a lot to address issues such as development of townships, but Tshwane is growing at 10 000 people per year. It is difficult to provide infrastructure over and above the shortages we already have.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the best allocation of funds will be by optimising existing systems - creating overflow systems at wastewater treatment works, increase capacity to catch spills (average of 7 spills at Rooiwal sacrificial sludge lands, lining / converting sacrificial lands to prevent contamination of soils and underground water sources. This will strengthen the farming communities and create job opportunities.</p> <p>Mpho indicated that GDARD need water quality test results to assist with river health.</p>	<p>COT</p> <p>COT MMC Johnston</p> <p>MMC Johnston / MMC Sutton</p> <p>Kerneels Esterhuysen</p>
	<b>Budget and Funding</b>	MMC Sutton was not present. No feedback.	
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Solid Waste</b>	<p>Ntombizodwa Mhlathi of COT Solid Waste reported that the status has not changed much since previous feedback in 2019. Council is still trying to pick up on the sorting and source issues to encourage recycling. Council is considering incorporating the waste pickers to assist with reducing what goes to landfill. Currently it's being done informally. Erica reported that GDARD has brought out good documentation in this regard.</p> <p>A lot of solid waste is ending up in rivers. This attest that very little is currently being done to address the issue. Skip bins get abused, dump around the bins or they burn the litter making it difficult to pick up.</p> <p>By-laws relies on whistle-blowers heavily to assist metro police or solid waste department - can take photos of someone dumping - in instances where it has been reported.</p>	

		<p>Behavioural problem is one of the biggest problems with no consequence and it becomes a norm. Sorting at source is most effective. Problems that they have are infrastructure within the city, trucks need to take the correct bins, financial constraints. There have been efforts to improve collection from 85 litres to 240 litre bins.</p> <p>Fines do help, especially with the construction dumping by smaller contractors.</p> <p>Ntombizodwa will prepare for more feedback at the next meeting and committed that her Department will work with the MAP Forum to find solutions.</p>	Ntombizodwa Mhlathi
5.8	<b>Water tariff consultations</b>	<p>Esmy reported that consultations will be held on water tariffs.</p> <p>Erica to send on to Nico Brits, who attended the previous round of consultations on behalf of the Forum.</p>	Erica Bergman / Nico Brits
6)	<b>FEEDBACK</b>	Erica reported that the Engineered wetlands installed at Midstream is operational. They will be presenting at the next meeting. A series of site visits will be organised.	Erica Bergman
7)	<b>DATES OF NEXT MEETING</b>	<p>2022: 19 July 2022, 20 September 2022, 15 November</p> <p>2023: 17 January</p>	
8)	<b>CLOSURE</b>	Erica declared the meeting closed and thanked the members for their attendance and participation.	