

MAP FORUM MEETING

MORELETA / APIES / PIENAARS RIVER SUB-CATCHMENT

Date : 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 (TUESDAY)

Time : 10:00 - 12:45

Venue : DWS TRAINING CENTRE, ROODEPLAAT

Chair: Ms. Erica Bergman

Scribe: Mrs. Louise Pretorius



ITEM	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME	The chair Erica Bergman welcomed attendees.	
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	<p>An attendance register was circulated. The meeting was attended by Erica Bergman, Louise Pretorius, Tebogo Mashiane (DWS), Mbali Dlamini (DWS), Tshheamo Mogale (GDARD), Marc Leroy (GDARD), Hangwi Akinwekomi (Magalies Water), Mathabo Phoka (GDARD), Mpho Kadi (GDARD), Mzukisi Noqhamza (DWS), Frederick Malleson (Hazeldean) Kobus Fell (NWM), Philip Muller (ROWSA), CJ Erasmus (Bon Accord IS), David Ntsowe (COT), Cassie Allers (Sable Hills) Etienne Venter (Sable Hills, Ntombizodwa Mhlathi (COT), Susan Lottering (COT), Liame van der Westhuizen (ARQ-PHP), Selwyn Jackson (Rowing SA), Kerneels Esterhuysen (COT), Simon Mosapelo (ArcelorMittal SA), Madumo Esmay (DWS), Mzukisi Noqhamza (COT), Anoesja M (COT), Wendy Modise (COT).</p> <p>Apologies were received from MMC Daryl Johnston, Gawie van Vuuren, Mike Plessic, Nico Brits and Erica Meyer.</p>	
3.	RATIFICATION OF AGENDA		
4.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
4.1	Wastewater Treatment		
4.1.1.	Rooiwal Planning	<p>Erica mentioned that there was no discussion on wastewater and Rooiwal at the previous meeting and confirmed that the Phase One contract had been terminated.</p> <p>Stephens Notoane reported that attempting to resuscitate the project, they reached a point the project had to be terminated. Various options were identified for the termination process, including to let the contractor enter a cession agreement with an identified company with the same CIDB grading as required. However, this agreement was not successful because the suggested contractor lacked the required CIDB, which would result in the same risks being faced. Termination took place at the end of July whereafter their legal team is investigating claims, damages and issues at hand.</p>	

		<p>He reported that the consultant was still available and that they were engaging with the consultant to put together specifications and tender documents for completion of the outstanding work. They hoped to add two additional primary septic tanks to assist with hydraulic overloading.</p> <p>He reported that they were also having contractual issues with the consultants. The consultants are claiming fees above the initial contract amount, but they did not reach project completion stage. They are claiming that they under-priced for the contract. This is causing delays. “They know we are desperate and we want to get back on site as soon as possible, but we still have due diligence and we have to follow process.” Erica reiterated that the problems with the consultant is a most unusual case, almost unheard of.</p> <p>Erica asked if the contract with the consultants include site supervision and mediation, which Stephens confirmed that it did.</p> <p>Erica asked whether mediation would not be a cheaper option. Stephens replied that consultants are governed by ECSA and in the past they have reported the responsible engineer on a project to ECSA in case of a misconduct issue. They will approach ECSA because the consultants cannot claim for things they didn’t do, for example they didn’t complete the designs, but they want to claim for the approval of the design. Stephens further noted that the consultants are affiliated to SAICE, and that they will also report them to this organisation. He agreed that mediation would be a cheaper option but reiterated that due processes are being followed.</p> <p>Phillip Muller from ROWSA remarked that a timeline was not mentioned. Stephen replied that they were in the design phase and that he could not give a timeline. However, when the design is concluded and they go out on tender and get a new contractor, taking all the processes into consideration, it can probably be done within nine months.</p> <p>Stephens reported that they are continuing with the maintenance work in accordance with the maintenance plan and that they have been making really good progress. Erica explained the problems that the Council is facing with an expensive project consisting of four phases, noting that the situation they are in is most unusual, expensive and time consuming and that there is no other option but to be patient about it.</p> <p>Kerneels Esterhuysen asked about progress regarding Phase Two. Stephens reported that they are not waiting for completion of Phase One and have already started with designs of Phase Two. He mentioned that the specifications for the appointment of a consultant had been completed and approved and that they are ready to go out on tender for the appointment of a consultant. They will also prepare a report for the MFMA (Municipal Finance Management Act) which has a clause, section 116, allowing appointments for periods of up to three years. He explained that if they needed to appoint a consultant for longer than three years, a specific process must be followed. They intend to appoint a consultant for a period of ten years and to combine phases two, three and four into one scope. The estimated time for completion of Phase Two is seven years. When funding becomes available, they will issue work packages. The report is already out on circulation and will go to the Council for public participation, whereafter an appointment will be made for a period of ten years.</p> <p>Stephen continued that they also appointed a consultant to engage with external infrastructure funders and a consultant to assist with business cases. He said they were talking to National Treasury and already submitted an application with the</p>	
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4.1.2	Rooiwal Plant Management	<p>Kerneels reported that one reactor was emptied to replace the airpipes and diffusers for the elation system and that further down in the flow stream they could also repair some of their infrastructure. The termination of the contract led to sewerage that needed to be treated and they are looking into the possibility of reinstating a reactor; they tested the reactor for leaks and appointed a service provider to fix the leaks. Once the reactor is reinstated, it will add 20 ML/day treatment capacity back into the treatment system.</p> <p>Kerneels further reported that some equipment was also removed for repairs and will be placed back. The inlet screens at the Northern Works have been attended to with two being in for repairs and one back in operation. Eventually all the screens will be serviced. They also designed a screen to protect the inlet screen from rocks and stones in the sewerage. Three inlet screens had been returned and are operational at the Northern works.</p> <p>Kerneels reported that some other initiatives include unblocking sanitation tanks at the Northern Works. He noted that they have two teams that are unblocking the primary sedimentation tanks at the Eastern Works. A mechanical infrastructure</p>	

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4.1.3	Fire risk	<p>Regarding other issues at Rooiwal, Erica mentioned a fire that broke out at the sludge dams at Rooiwal. Kerneels pointed out that it had been reported to the Fire Brigade. He mentioned that AfriForum asked to be supplied with a fire report and that a report had been requested from the emergency services.</p> <p>Erica reported that the Fire Department cannot respond in the sludge lands unless they are guided by the Environmental Department. After two weeks not much had been done, in spite of her following up with both Departments.</p>	
4.1.4	Baviaanspoort	<p>Kerneels provided feedback on Baviaanspoort stating that there is more inflow than the design capacity. He noted that they've had equipment vandalised and stolen from a remote area. They also experienced loadshedding, which had a negative impact on the continuous biological activity that is required for optimal wastewater treatment. He has escalated it to their electricity department to see if it is possible to exclude all the wastewater works from loadshedding.</p>	Kerneels
4.1.5	Zeekoegat	<p>Kerneels reported that two of the inlet works screens have been fixed at Zeekoegat WWTW. One screen was to be replaced and the city is waiting for the release of orders. The disinfection unit needs to be serviced and they are waiting for the purchase order. They also have loadshedding and requested to be excluded from it.</p> <p>He further reported that there was a site inspection in late August at the bay area where the Zeekoegat effluent is being discharged into the Rooideplaas dam. They may have a service provider to do an assessment and are investigating treatment of the bay area. It was found that no sludge settled on the bottom of the dam lower down in the bay, but sludge was only floating in the water layer. He stated that as soon as the contractors had been paid and they have someone that can assist, they will request the Dept of Environment to do a once-off treatment. Ecotab may be suitable.</p>	
4.1.6	Other	<p>Erica pointed out it is extremely frustrating for the community that no wastewater works had been constructed for 25 years. However, she pointed out that the Green Drop Report indicates that Tshwane is spending the most of all the municipalities on wastewater treatment repairs and capacity building. Kerneels and Stephens responded that Ikangana and Baviaanspoort WWTWs were refurbished. Erica remarked that Tshwane is growing by 100 000 people per year. Historical underspending of funds, not creating additional capacity at treatment plants, and maintenance of the water treatment works are contributing factors to poor water management.</p>	

		<p>Selwyn Jackson from ROWSA added that some of their athletes had been ill. One of the ladies who was competing internationally was a medal hopeful, but contracted diarrhoea and is unlikely to get a medal. He pointed out that the water is becoming a major problem with sludge having been released from the Treatment Plant for over 14 months. He noted that the regatta is enormous and that nothing seems to get done. He emphasised the inflow of sludge must be stopped. Selwyn reiterated that the Regatta is very high profile. Many countries will be competing. A race will take place every three minutes with 160 boats in the water at any one time. It is much bigger than anything we've had before.</p> <p>Susan Lottering pointed out that the wastewater package plants are also a problem. The City of Tshwane's sub-section Industrial Effluent and Pollution Control know where the problems are but they don't know whether the plants are legal or who owns them. DWS can assist. Erica requested that Susan and the gentleman from DWS collaborate to resolve this problem. Mbali Dlamini from DWS pointed out that informal settlements also contribute to pollution, as sewer pipes are connected into our river systems. Erica mentioned that the Department of Human Settlements are doing a lot to address informal settlements, but the problem is vast.</p>	
	Water Quality Monitoring	<p>Susan Lottering from the City of Tshwane's sub-section Industrial Effluent and Pollution Control presented on Water Quality Monitoring of the Apies River Catchment with the focus on the Upper Apies and the section before Daspoort WWTP and After WWTP using an on-screen presentation.</p> <p>The sub-section monitors 200 points within the municipality's borders. In the Apies River catchment, there are 23 points that are monitored monthly, but the inflow and outflow are monitored once a week.</p> <p>Susan provided background information about the origins of the Apies River, the Moreleta Stream and the Pienaars River, followed by parameters used as pollution indicators and sampling points for Moreleta, the Apies River and Pienaars River in Region 3 and Region 6. She presented six months' results. It was clear from the presentation that a major contributing factor to poor water quality from the City is water from Walkerspruit. This area is used by informal settlers.</p> <p>Susan concluded that the Water Sub-Section monitors the water quality as a first priority and attends to problems as soon as they are informed. It is the City of Tshwane's and stakeholders' responsibility to make sure that no pollution reaches our water courses, so a joint approach is the way forward.</p> <p>Susan indicated that their department will do presentations at the next meetings on other streams in the subcatchment. Erica thanked the Industrial Effluent and Pollution Control Department for their willingness to participate and requested that presentations be limited to one per meeting, as time is limited.</p>	<p>COT</p> <p>All</p> <p>Susan</p>
5.	MEETING DATES	2022: 15 November 2022 2023: 17 January 2023	
7.	CLOSURE	Erica declared the meeting closed and thanked the members for their attendance and participation.	