Classification of Water Resources in the Olifants Water Management Area

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 1

Date: 18 February 2011
Venue: Forever Resorts, Loskop Dam
Time: 10:00 – 14:00

water affairs
Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AGENDA (1)

10h00	1 WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS	DWA
10h10	2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	DWA
10h15	3 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA	DWA
10h20	4 BACKGROUND TO WATER RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION AND THE THREE STUDIES BEING UNDERTAKEN	DWA
10h35	5 PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP	DWA

AGENDA (2)

10h50	6 THE OLIFANTS CLASSIFICATION STUDY: PRESENTATION	STUDY TEAM /DWA
	6.1 Description of the Classification system	
	6.2 Study Area	
	6.3 Process for the classification of water resources in the Olifants WMA	
	6.4 Technical process	
	6.5 Public Participation process	
	6.6 Role of the PSC in the process	
	6.7 Inception Phase : Integrated units of analysis and significant water resources	
	6.8 Approach to Evaluation of Scenarios	
	6.9 Vision for the Olifants WMA	
	6.10 Next steps	

AGENDA (3)

12h40	**7 DISCUSSIONS AND COMMENTS**	ALL
13h25	**8 GENERAL**	ALL
13h35	**9 WAY FORWARD**	DWA
13h45	**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING and CLOSURE**	DWA
14h00	**LUNCH**	

BACKGROUND TO WATER RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION AND THE THREE STUDIES BEING UNDERTAKEN

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PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

1. Purpose
2. Legal Mandate
3. Water Resource Classification System (WRCS)
4. Implementation of Water Resource Classification System in identified Water Management Areas

PURPOSE

- To inform stakeholders about the classification of water resources

- To provide a brief overview of the Water Resources Classification System (WRCS)

- Indicate how the Department will implement the WRCS

INTRODUCTION

- SA water resources becoming increasingly stressed;

- As custodian of the country's water resources, DWA need to ensure comprehensive protection and sustainable use of all water resources;

- Some water resources may require a high level of protection whereas other water resources may serve the country's developmental needs.

INTRODUCTION (cont)

- **The classification of water resources will help in maintaining the desired state of water resources by setting an acceptable Management Class (MC);**

- **MC facilitates the balance between protection and use of the water resources;**

- **Process requires co-operation & transparency with all stakeholders.**

LEGAL MANDATE

- The classification of South African water resources is required by the National Water Act (NWA) (No. 36 of 1998) (Chapter 3 regarding the protection of water resources)
- Regulation 810 published in Government Gazette No. 33541 dated 17 September 2010 defined water resource management classes and the procedure to determine a Class
- According to the NWA, once the WRCS has been gazetted all significant water resources must be classified

WRCS REGULATIONS

- **Three classes:**
  - **Class I - minimally used # configuration of ecological categories of that water resource minimally altered from its pre-development condition**
  - **Class II - moderately used # configuration of ecological categories of that water resource moderately altered from its pre-development condition**
  - **Class III - heavily used # configuration of ecological categories of that water resource significantly altered from its pre-development condition**

PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING CLASSES

The procedure for determining different classes of water resources is a 7-step procedure (Methodology) and MUST be followed

Step 1: Delineate the units of analysis and describe the status quo of the water resource(s)

Step 2: Link the socio-economic and ecological value and condition of the water resource(s)

Step 3: Quantify the ecological water requirements and changes in non-water quality ecosystem goods, services and attributes

Step 4: Determine an ecologically sustainable base configuration scenario

Step 5: Evaluate scenarios within the integrated water resource management process

Step 6: Evaluate the scenarios with stakeholders; and

Step 7: Gazette and implement the class configuration.

GUIDING CRITERIA USED ON SELECTING A WATER RESOURCE FOR CLASSIFICATION

- **REASONABLY PRACTICABLE**

  Will depend on priority areas and where PREPARATIONS are completed

- **SIGNIFICANT WATER RESOURCE**

  Based on the following factors:

  - **aquatic importance**
  - **aquatic ecosystems to protect**
  - **economic value**
  - **not necessarily on size**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WRCS IN IDENTIFIED WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAs)

- Three Classification studies have recently been initiated by the Department of Water Affairs (October 2010)
- Vaal, Olifants and Olifants-Doorn WMAs
- The main aim of these studies is to co-ordinate the implementation of the WRCS (7 step process) to classify all significant water resources in the three studies in order to determine a suitable Management Class for the relevant water resources
- Process to compliment existing IWRM processes (e.g. the Reconciliation Studies)
- Timeframe: 24 months