



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Classification of Water
Resources in the Olifants/Doorn Water
Management Area**

**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING 1**

**Date: 17 May 2011
Venue: DWA Western Cape Region, Bellville
Time: 09:00 – 13:00**



AGENDA (1)

09:30	1	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (10 min)	Chairperson
09:40	2	ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES (5 min)	All
09:45	3	ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA (5 min)	All
09:50	4	BACKGROUND TO WATER RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (15 min)	DWA
10:05	5	PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP (15 min)	DWA

AGENDA (2)

10:20	6	THE OLIFANTS/DOORN CLASSIFICATION STUDY: PRESENTATION (70 min)	
	6.1	Description of the Classification system	
	6.2	Study Area	
	6.3	Process for the classification of water resources in the Olifants/Doorn	
	6.4	Technical process	
	6.5	Public Participation process	
	6.6	Role of the PSC in the process	
	6.7	Inception Phase of study: Integrated units of <i>analysis and significant water resources</i>	
	6.8	Approach to Evaluation of Scenarios	
	6.9	Next steps	

AGENDA (3)

11:30	7	DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS (60 min)	All
12:30	8	GENERAL (15 min)	DWA
12:45	9	WAY FORWARD (5 min)	All
12:50	10	DATE OF NEXT MEETING and CLOSURE	DWA
13:00		LUNCH	



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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 WRCS in identified Water Management Areas (WMAs)**



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PURPOSE

- To inform stakeholders about the classification of water resources
- To provide a brief overview of the Water Resources Classification System (WRCS)
- To indicate how the Department will implement the WRCS



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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 DWA (October 2010) in the Vaal, Olifants and Olifants-Doorn WMAs
- The main aim of these studies is to co-ordinate the implementation of the WRCS (7 step process) in order to determine a suitable Management Class for the relevant water resources
- Process to compliment existing IWRM processes (e.g. the Reconciliation Studies)