



MINUTES OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING 2

Date: 27 July 2021

Time: 10H00 – 13H00

Venue: Ms Teams Virtual Meeting

Chairperson: Ms Ndileka Mohapi

Secretariat: Mr Samkele Mnyango

ITEM NO	ITEM	ACTION: THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1.	<p>OPENING AND WELCOME</p> <p>The Chairperson, Ms Ndileka Mohapi, welcomed all the members to the 2nd Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Ms Ndileka Mohapi highlighted the objectives of the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to report on the progress of the project; and- to discuss the draft National Eutrophication Management Strategy Report (first edition).	
2.	<p>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>See the list of attendees in Annexure A.</p> <p>Apologies were received from the following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Wandile Nomqophu (WRC)- Mr Ariel Mafejane (Johannesburg Water)- Dr Bill Harding (DHE)- Ms Sherral Mmakgang Enele (DWS)- Mr Solomon Makate (DWS)- Dr Pearl Gola (SANBI)- Prof Paul Oberholster (UFS)- Mr Jan van Staden (BG-CMA)- Mr Marcus Selepe (IU-CMA)- Dr Sharon Pollard (AWARD)- Ms Mpho Morokane (DWS) <p>The following members requested to be excused early due to other commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Prudence Mahlaba (BG-CMA)- Dr Johann Tempelhoff (NWU)- Mr Charles Linstrom (Exxaro)- Ms Simone Liefferenk (Sibanye Stillwater)	
3.	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA</p> <p>The agenda was accepted with an addition of Item 4 - Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.</p>	

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4.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>Perusal of the minutes of the previous PSC meeting held on 29 July 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Geert Grobler corrected his name on the list of attendees - Ms Koleka Makanda corrected Ms Nwabisa Fundzo’s surname on the list of apologies received. - Ms Ndileka Mohapi asked if Regulations and Green Drop Teams are represented in the meeting. Ms Tovhowani Nyamande responded that only Regulation is represented but the Green Drop Team is not available this week as they are conducting a workshop/symposium on the resuscitation of the Blue/Green Drop assessment programme. <p>All actions were attended to.</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the above two corrections.</p>	
5.	<p>PRESENTATION ON PROJECT PROGRESS</p> <p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande presented the progress of the project. The presentation highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives of the meeting as reflected on the agenda of the meeting - Background and introduction including the tools that are in place to manage eutrophication and the definition of eutrophication including contributing factors. - Scope of work and project progress indicating phases of the project from phase 1 to 4. The completed phases include Project Inception and Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis; and current phase which is the development of the National Eutrophication Strategy and the next phase which is Putting Strategy into Practice. - Stakeholder engagement and participation indicating different formations of stakeholder engagement platforms and working groups namely, Technical Task Team, Sub-Task Team, Project Management Committee, and Project Steering Committee as well as an indication of stakeholder engagement sessions. - PSC Membership representation to date includes Government Departments, Private Sector, Catchment Management Agencies, MISA, Research Institutions, High-educational institutions, and Non-Government Organizations. - Capacity building which consists of a mentorship programme for technical employees, capacity building workshops, and stakeholder workshops such as Catchment Management Fora. - Way forward is the implementation of the Strategy at the Catchment level in alignment with the Classified Water Resources, RQOs, Reserves, etc. <p>Discussion</p>	

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	<p>Ms Mariette Liefferink on the chatbox relayed the words of appreciation to the Chairperson for addressing her as Dr but clarified that she does not have a doctorate. She further thanked the Chairperson for recognising their comments and for providing meaningful responses thereafter.</p> <p>Ms Mariette Liefferink asked if there will be a Policy emanating from the Strategy since the Policy has more regulatory power for implementation. Ms Mariette Liefferink also commented on the issue of monitoring data gaps and if the implementation of the Strategy will address those gaps.</p> <p>Mr Elijah Mogakabe suggested that Ms Mpharu Hloyi from the City of Cape Town be invited to the PSC. Ms Hloyi is one of the Science Forum (Water Resource Management) coordinators.</p> <p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande responded that the Eutrophication Strategy is responding to one of the actions of the Integrated Water Quality Management Policy, which highlighted five (5) water quality management issues, and eutrophication was among the identified issue of concern. In terms of the lack of data, the Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis Report also identified monitoring data as one of the gaps. However, the Department has decided to move on with the available data to avoid procrastinating to implement with the excuse of not having data. The Department is aware and working on it.</p> <p>In relation to the implementation of Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs), Ms Tovhowani Nyamande requested Mr Yakeen Atwaru to give more clarity on the RDM implementation project planned to assist the implementers.</p> <p>Mr Yakeen Atwaru indicated that there is a workshop planned for the Provincial Offices and CMAs on the state of readiness for implementing RQOs and the Reserves at the Catchment level. The first 2 deliverables for this financial year are to implement RQOs in Inkomati – Usuthu and Berg Catchments.</p>	<p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande / D: SDS Team</p>
6.	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL EUTROPHICATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>Mr Jurgo van Wyk presented the draft National Eutrophication Management Strategy from Part 1 to 4.</p> <p>The presentation was divided into 4 parts as indicated below:</p> <p>Part 1 - the concept of Eutrophication causal chain in the South African Context.</p> <p>Part 2 - the existing and new policies to manage Eutrophication in South Africa.</p> <p>Part 3 - three Strategies namely, Core Strategies, Operational Strategies, and Supporting Strategies, to Manage Eutrophication in South Africa.</p> <p>Part 4 - the Way Forward.</p>	

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	<p><u>Discussion on Part 1: The South African Context</u></p> <p>Ms Simone Liefferink commented on the initiatives being driven by the Department such as the implementation of the Green-drop which she hopes will assist in improving matters. However, it goes beyond the issues we are experiencing with Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) and how they operate and sewerage spills we have all over the country which does not reach WWTWs, that is a major requirement for Eutrophication perspective that needs to be looked at.</p> <p>Ms Simone Liefferink also acknowledged the methods that are used to determine eutrophication and suggested that the impact of Ammonia, dissolved Oxygen and the relationship between pH and Temperature be added. We have noted that there is a lack of understanding of what toxicity is, especially regarding the impacts of Ammonia in the aquatic environment.</p> <p>Dr Johann Tempelhoff thanked the presenter and raised his concern on the lack of aquatic environmental awareness. The Strategy needs to make people aware of the health issues, pollution, and eutrophication within water systems. This is very important for the people of South Africa.</p> <p>Mr Pieter Viljoen on the chatbox responded to Dr Johann Tempelhoff and mentioned that the Water Research Commission (WRC) has a project that may partially address his comments regarding community involvement. Project: Research into alignment, scaling, and resourcing of citizen-based water quality monitoring to realising the DWS integrated water quality management strategy (k5/2854//1&2). Mr John Dini is the project manager. The intention of the project is monitoring but it creates a big deal of awareness in communities.</p> <p>Mr Jurgo van Wyk noted the comments and suggestions made by Ms Simone Liefferink and Dr Johann Tempelhoff.</p> <p><u>Discussion on Part 2: Eutrophication Management Policy for South Africa</u></p> <p>Ms Simone Liefferink indicated that she strongly supports the self-regulation and involvement of civil society and other private interventions. She also highlighted that both these points can assist the Government in monitoring, management, and reporting, improve the skills base and promote continual improvement. Improved control over charge systems is also needed to be investigated.</p> <p>Ms Mariette Liefferink indicated that Policy objectives include the role of civil society. She further mentioned that Civil society can only contribute if water quality results from all water use licence holders are made freely available at Catchment Management Forums. This also addresses the policy objective of transparency.</p> <p>Mr Jurgo van Wyk noted the comments made by Ms Mariette Liefferink and mentioned that he will highlight them in the document.</p>	

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	<p><u>Discussion on Part 3 & 4: Eutrophication Management Strategy for South Africa and the Way Forward</u></p> <p>Ms Mariette Liefferink indicated that the core strategies for Eutrophication Management propose to look at sources and management of sources. Since the extent of main rivers in SA classified as having a poor condition increased by 500% with some rivers pushed beyond the point of recovery and since SA has lost over 50% of its wetlands according to the NW&SMP, how will these diffuse sources that contribute to the eutrophic state of our dams be addressed or actioned in the Strategy?</p> <p>Dr Jeff Thornton suggested that inclusion of a text box or text boxes to illustrate case studies would be helpful for readers to see how the process works in practice.</p> <p>Mr Jurgo van Wyk responded that currently we do not have the necessary tools in hand to properly manage the diffuse sources but there are suggested command-control instruments that could be used to manage diffuse pollution and they highlight what needs further development. Mr van Wyk acknowledged the existing gap that needs to be filled since we are using tools that are not for managing diffuse sources and indicated that the Strategy is giving direction on that.</p> <p>Ms Mariette Liefferink further asked if there are any other options available other than an offset in cases where rivers and wetlands cannot be rehabilitated or remediated. Ms Ndileka Mohapi asked for clarity on the use of the word "Offset". Ms Mariette Liefferink used a scenario of an artificial wetland as an example of an offset but she was not sure whether the same scenario applies to rivers as well.</p> <p>Ms Ndileka Mohapi mentioned that she is glad that she asked for clarity, this is because there are so many interpretations of offsets. She also alluded on the importance of corporative governance. Her comments to the Team was she is hoping that when we look into the implementation, we would be able to look into Roles and Responsibilities, because the issues around rehabilitation lies with our sister Department DFFE.</p> <p>Ms Mariette Liefferink commented on Supporting Strategies that were referred to in the presentation, she pointed out the importance of collaborating with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMR) since some of the pollution issues are related to DMR and asked if DMR is represented in the PSC.</p> <p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande confirmed that the invitation was extended to DMR as well. Ms Ndileka Mohapi indicated that as a stalwart in the water sector, Ms Liefferink would be aware of the challenges in getting DMR representation in meetings, concluded that there we no representatives in the meeting but the Department has a Strategy of getting hold of them.</p> <p>Dr Eddie Riddell commended the team for the work that has been done, and also mentioned that it would be useful to have an executive summary and a road map for the document to assist the reader to understand the whole document. The document also mentions the vertical and horizontal integration, which he thoughts needs more emphasis in terms of how the national eutrophication strategy becomes imbedded into</p>	

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	<p>strategies at the local level such as Catchment Management Strategy and Strategic implementation plan.</p> <p>Mr Ash Seetal referred to the issue of eutrophication as a thorny and persistent water sector issue. He further indicated that the strategy development approach is very comprehensive, well-structured, and methodical to this incredibly difficult water and development issue. The various linkages are well articulated. “There is a lot of work that is done in the Sector. Unfortunately, a lot of stakeholders are unaware of the kind of synergies that exists due to the communication. The government is doing a lot of very good work and they not getting any credit for that. This is not something new, we need to work together to overcome this problem of communication, we need forums like this to pass the message to the civil society so that they will also join forces”. He concluded that this is a wonderful strategy that needs to be demonstrated at the local level but DWS cannot do that alone, we need to join hands and make this Strategy popular on the ground.</p> <p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande indicated that the Department has considered engaging CMFs on a different platform because we require forum representatives to attend meetings like this. We are planning to organize separate visits to them in their respective Forums to capacitate them.</p> <p>PSC Members commended the DWS for the work they have done in drafting the Strategy.</p>	
7.	<p>WAY FORWARD</p> <p>Ms Ndileka Mohapi indicated that the way forward was well articulated in the last slide presented by Mr Jurgo van Wyk.</p> <p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande assured the Members that their comments and inputs will be incorporated in updating the Strategy Report.</p>	
8.	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>Ms Ndileka Mohapi thanked all Members for attending and participating in the PSC meeting.</p>	

<p>Compiled by</p>  <hr/> <p>Mr Samkele Mnyango (Project Coordinator) Production Scientist: SDS Department of Water and Sanitation Date: 22 August 2022</p>	<p>Approval</p>  <hr/> <p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande (Project Manager) Director: SDS Department of Water and Sanitation Date: 29 August 2022</p>
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Annexure A: Attendance Register

No	NAME & SURNAME	ORGANISATION
1.	Ms Ndileka Mohapi	Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
2.	Ms Tovhowani Nyamande	DWS
3.	Ms Mmaphefo Thwala	DWS
4.	Mr Samkele Mnyango	DWS
5.	Mr Pieter Viljoen	DWS
6.	Dr Jeffrey Thornton	International Environmental Management Services Ltd
7.	Mr Matome Makwela	Minerals Council South Africa
8.	Ms Patricia Mjadu	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development
9.	Mr Yakeen Atwaru	DWS
10.	Mr Stanley Nzama	DWS
11.	Ms Rachel Mpe	DWS: Northern Cape
12.	Ms Mariette Liefferink	Federation for a Sustainable Environment (FSE)
13.	Dr Johann Tempelhoff	North West University
14.	Dr Eddie Riddell	SANPAarks
15.	Mr Molefi Mazibuko	DWS
16.	Mr Elijah Mogakabe	DWS
17.	Mr Willie Mosefowa	DWS
18.	Mr Tendamudzimu Rasikhanya	DWS
19.	Ms Mahadi Mofokeng	DWS
20.	Ms Jacqueline Jay	DWS
21.	Mr Kgotso Mahlahlane	DWS
22.	Ms Dephney Kabini	DWS: Free State
23.	Ms Nombuyiselo Mgca	DWS: Eastern Cape
24.	Ms Mbali Mpanza	University of Johannesburg
25.	Ms Jeanette Nyama	DWS: Gauteng
26.	Mr Seetal Ashwin	CSIR
27.	Ms Caroline Tlowana	IU-CMA
28.	Mr Hugo Retief	AWARD
29.	Mr Kwazikwakhe Majola	DWS
30.	Ms Esmay Madumo	DWS: North-West
31.	Mr Sazi Mthembu	DWS
32.	Mr Mxolisi Mukhawana	DWS
33.	Mr Charles Linstrom	Exxaro mining co./Minerals Council South Africa
34.	Mr Mnisi Mkhevu	DWS
35.	Ms Simone Liefferink	Sibanye Stillwater
36.	Mr Geert Grobler	DWS
37.	Ms Chocky Tshenkeng	DWS
38.	Ms Koleka Makanda	DWS
39.	Ms Prudence Mahlaba	BG-CMA
40.	Ms Lebo Mosoa	DWS