



MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING NUMBER 1

Date: 29 July 2020; 10H00 – 12H30

Chairperson: Ms Ndileka Mohapi

Venue: Ms Teams Virtual Meeting

Secretariat: Mr Samkele Mnyango

NO	ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION: PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson, Ms Ndileka Mohapi, welcomed all the members to the 1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting and thanked everyone who attended especially the external stakeholders. 	
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Internal Stakeholders:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Ndileka Mohapi (Chairperson, CD: Water Ecosystems). Ms Tovhowani Nyamande (Project Manager). Mr Samkele Mnyango (Project Coordinator). Mr Yakeen Atwaru (RD). Mr Mxolisi Mukhawana (IP) Mr Elijah Mogakabe (RQIS). Mr Willy Mosefowa (WRP&W). Ms Jacqueline Jay (IWRP). Mr Molefi Mazibuko (RD). Mr Mkhevu Mnisi (WRC). Ms Koleka Makanda (WRC). Mr Pieter Viljoen (IWRP). Mr Jurgo van Wyk (IWRP). Ms Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss (BLV). Ms Rachel Mpe (NW). Mr Geert Grobler (IWRP). Mr Stanley Nzama (RD). Ms Mahadi Mofokeng (Strategy). Ms Chocky Tshenkeng (WRP&W). Mr Kwazikwakhe Majola (RD). Mr Tenda Rasikhanya (Policy). Ms Ledile Nyama (GAU). <u>External Stakeholders</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Eddie Riddel (SANPARKS) Dr Bill Harding (DH Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd) Dr Jeffrey Thornton (International Environmental Management Services) Ms Nomvuzo Mjadu (DARD) 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr Matome Makwela (Minerals Council of South Africa) ○ Ms Mariette Liefferink (FSE) ○ Mr Wandile Nomquphu (WRC). ○ Prof Johanne Tempelhoff (NWU). ○ Ms Mbalenhle Mpanza (UJ) ○ Dr Eunice Ubomba-Jaswa (WRC). ○ Mr Bradley Nethononda (DEFF). ○ Mr Edwin Mametja ○ Prof Paul Oberholster (UFS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apology was received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr Resenga Shibambo (DWS, Enforcement). ○ Ms Candice Mahlangu (DWS, Communications). ○ Ms Nolusindiso Jafta (DWS, IWRMS) ○ Ms Nwabisa Fundzo (DWS, Knowledge Management). ○ Ms Manisha Maharaj (DWS, Durban). ○ Mr Joseph Phasha (DWS, Tzaneen). ○ Prof. Michael Solomon (UCT). ○ Mr Ariel Mafejane (Johannesburg Water). 	
3.	ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The agenda was accepted with no additions. 	
4.	PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms Tovhowani Nyamande outlined the purpose of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To report on the progress on the development of the National Eutrophication Strategy (NES); and ○ To present and discuss the Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis Report. 	
5.	INCEPTION OF THE PROJECT AND REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr Samkele Mnyango gave a presentation (attached for ease of reference) and it highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The overview of the project highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brief history of Eutrophication management in South Africa; ▪ The main aim and key objectives of the project; ▪ Reasons informing the development of the Strategy the project focus. ○ Scope of work and progress of the project: the project has 8 components, so far the Team has completed the Project Inception Report (IR). The IR was circulated on the 27th May 2020 to Project Steering Committee (PSC) for comments/inputs. The project is currently on component 2 which is Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis Report (SA&GA), the report has also been circulated for comments/inputs and they are due on the 03rd August 2020. ○ Stakeholder consultation and communication: The scope of communication include the following: 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Management Committee (PMC) which consists of DWS Officials both Head Office and Regional Offices; ▪ PSC which consists of both internal (DWS Officials) and external stakeholders (water sector at large); ▪ Technical Task Team (TTT) which consist of internal DWS technical team members; and ▪ Sub Task Group which was established according to the area of expertise or different specialist drafting and compiling of technical reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed stakeholder engagement dates: due to budget constraints, there will be a limited number of public meetings i.e. PSC meeting 1 in July, PSC meeting 2 in December or early January 2021 and the public workshop in 2021. However, the TTT holds monthly meeting to fast the progress of the project. ○ Capacity Building. 	
6.	QUESTIONS FOR CLARIFICATION / COMMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Mariette Liefverink recommended that more NGOs should be involved in the project and be included as part of the PSC. • Ms Ndileka Mohapi thanked Ms Mariette Liefverink for the comment, and indicated she will appreciate if she could send a list of NGOs she might have. • Ms Mariette Liefverink and Ms Melisa Lintnaar-Strauss promised to email details of other stakeholders to Ms Nyamande. • Ms Ndileka Mohapi further mentioned that there are areas which do not have Catchment Management Forum (CMFs) in place, which is the platform used by the Department to exchange information with the public, however, the Department has started the restructuring process which will also include the implementation of CMF strategies. • Ms Tovhowani Nyamande concluded to say the Department has tried to reach out to everyone but the list of PSC (slide 11) is according to the response received. Some NGOs are included as PSPs, of which companies such as DHEC and IEMS will be under those. • Ms Ndileka Mohapi suggested that NGOs and PSPs be listed separately due to the different nature of their interests. • Mr Matome Makwela asked if it is possible to get copies of the presentation and also asked if it is possible to get someone from the Department to present the strategy (especially at the First Draft of the Strategy component) to members of Minerals Council. 	<p>Ms Mariette Liefverink & Ms Mellisa Lintnaar-Strauss</p> <p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande / Mr Samkele Mnyango.</p>

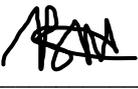
NO	ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION: PERSON RESPONSIBLE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tovhowani Nyamande responded to say the presentations will be circulated and arrangements will be made to present the Strategy for the Minerals Council. • Ms Mariette Liefferink also asked if Municipalities will be involved in this Strategy since they are the major contributors of high loads of nutrients. • Ms Ndileka Mohapi responded to say the Department is struggling to get hold of Municipalities, however, we will try to engage them in different platforms. <p>Discussion on the meeting chat box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Johann Tempelhoff stated that the information also need to be passed on to the water forums in the river catchments and members of the water forums should also be introduced. In response, Ms Tovhowani Nyamande stated that an invitation was sent to different stakeholders and also stressed out the issues and difficulties of getting hold of the CMAs representatives to participate in the Sector meetings. • Mr Jurgo van Wyk listed elements that should receive attention during the compilation of the strategy, these are: direction given from a strategic country perspective; to ensure consistency in the application of local interventions by stipulating ground rules or principles; to address pertinent issues of integration and alignment with other processes; to identify and prioritize scarce resources to address significant issues; and to track implementation progress. Ms Melisa Lintnaar-Strauss concurred with Mr van Wyk. 	
7.	PRESENTATION OF THE SITUATION ASSESSMENT AND GAP ANALYSIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tovhowani Nyamande gave a presentation (attached for ease of reference) and the presentation highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ chapter 3 of the NWA which deals with the protection of water resources; ▪ Resource Directed Measures (RDM) i.e. Water Resource Classification, Reserve Determination and RQOs; and ▪ Source Directed Measures (SDM) i.e. pollution prevention. ○ Introduction highlighted the definition of eutrophication adopted in the project and factors influencing eutrophication. ○ Description of component 2 (SA&GA) highlighted the purpose of component 2 and topics covered (chapters of) in the SA&GA Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impacts of climate change; ▪ Eutrophication management policy and legislative framework; 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eutrophication challenges in SA; ▪ Measures in place to manage eutrophication; ▪ Gap analysis; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed interventions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate change impacts in Eutrophication. ○ Policy and legislative framework: Compliance with the <u>Sustainable Development Goals</u>, specifically goal 6, target 6.3 which address water quality issues; and <u>Section 24 of the Constitution</u> of the Republic of South Africa and regulations such as NEMA, WSA and NWA, to ensure that the environment is protected and everyone is living in well sustained and suitable conditions. ○ The evolution of IWQM: there is a long history of policies and programmes ranging from 1900s to the promulgation of NWA in 1998. ○ Eutrophication challenges in SA: some of the challenges highlighted is that approximately 62% of SA'S largest dams are currently eutrophic or hypertrophic, mainly due to inadequately treated Waste Water Treatment Works effluent. ○ Measures in place include inter alia <u>water resources protection measures</u> such RDM and SDC; <u>DWS regulatory mechanism</u> such as blue and green drop certification programme; <u>policy formulation and development of best practices</u> such as the revision WQM policies and strategies. ○ Gaps identified include insufficient monitoring, delay in the implementation of the protection and regulatory measures, lack of capacity and limited research, technology and intervention. ○ The presentation also highlighted the <u>sources</u> of nutrients; major <u>causes</u> of eutrophication in SA; <u>Impacts</u> and potential <u>risks</u> associated with eutrophication; <u>DWS monitoring status</u> and the <u>required interventions</u> such as reviewing of NEMP and regulation (enforcement regarding municipalities to comply with 1.0mg/l of Phosphate standards). 	
8.	DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Mariette Liefferink raised the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On required interventions (slide 20): there will be a challenge on the enforcement of non-point source pollution control in informal settlements (some of the points made were not clear due to bad connection); 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On lack of research (gap analysis): there is a quite a number of work/research done on eutrophication in SA and believes research is available but the challenge is the implementation of the recommendations of the work that has been done ○ On measures in place to manage eutrophication in SA (slide 18): green-blue drop reports have not been published since 2014 and is a major concern to the public; ○ When will be the amalgamation between WSA and NWA be completed? ○ Is it realistic to say we will meet some of the SDG target with current poor water conditions in our rivers in 2021? ● Ms Tovhowani Nyamande noted the point of availability of research. ● Ms Ndileka Mohapi mentioned that the business of the day is to discuss the development of National Eutrophication Strategy, not other processes of the Department, therefore, the platform might not be able to respond to questions that are not relevant to the development of the Strategy. She further mentioned that, the issue around the strategy is that we are not talking about the implementation of the strategy but the timeline for finalising (drafting) the Strategy. Therefore, 2021 that was referred to in the presentation was that of drafting a Strategy not the implementation. The implementation process is going to run a period of years and it is not going to be achieved by the end of 2021. ● Ms Ndileka Mohapi also requested Officials from Regulations to assist on answering on the Blue drop – Green drop processes. ● Mr Willy Mosefowa in response mentioned that there is a plan in place for this financial year which for self-assessment where stakeholders will be assessing themselves and putting information into the system. ● Ms Ndileka Mohapi mentioned that the project administration team will try to get the status of the blue-green drop from the regulation team responsible with the blue-green drop programmes. In conclusion, the Chairperson mentioned that we also have to acknowledge as the citizens that we have a role to play in enforcement and that Government cannot do it alone. ● In terms of the implementation of CMA, Ms Tovhowani Nyamande responded that a comprehensive response was given and noted on the Issues and Response Register that was circulated to the PSC members. 	<p>Regulation team - blue-green drop programmes</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Matome Makwela suggested that there should be a quantification of contribution of each or some sectors towards the challenges of eutrophication because this will assist in the drafting of the implementation plan. Ms Tovhowani Nyamande responded to say the idea of Putting Strategy into Practice component was put in place to close the gap between Eutrophication Strategy and the implementation plan which is expected to be at the catchment management level and this component will highlight sectors and contributors at the national scale before moving to the “who, what, how and when” of the implementation plan. Mr Matome Makwela noted the response and said he is hopeful that this will be included in those reports because it will provide great insight as to what need to be prioritized. • Mr Wandile Nomqophu concurred with Ms Mariette Liefferink and mentioned that there is a vast research done by the Water Research Commission (WRC) on the Eutrophication. One of the projects completed by WRC a year or two ago on monitoring using Earth Observation or satellite monitoring integrated into the national eutrophication monitoring programme, we had hoped that it is the system that could be used on monitoring the eutrophication on the country wide scale and system has been improved. Thus, from the research point of view a great deal has been done and we can still do a little bit more if there are some research gaps that need addressing. • Mr Elijah Mogakabe mentioned the Earth Observation National Eutrophication Monitoring Programme technology was developed but there were some challenges with further administration from the Department and the matter was elevated to top management because of the cost implication related to the technology. We have used the technology and we know that the type of information that can be generated from that system is very reliable and it has also assisted us in decision making with regards to eutrophication. • Ms Tovhowani Nyamande probed questions on capacity building, since we received lots of questions on the issue and capability of the Department. • There was a training presented to the DWS, that was put together by DR Harding and his group, why this was not used to build capacity in the Department? (Ms Mariette Liefferink). Ms Ndileka Mohapi, responded to say she will get Tovho (Ms Nyamande) and her team to follow-up on that. • Dr Bill Harding followed-on by saying that he has been involved in four (including this one) attempts to develop eutrophication strategies over the past 30 years but this is the first that looks like 	<p style="text-align: right;">Ms Tovhowani Nyamande</p>

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		<p>it is going to run and come out somewhere. What came out from the previous attempts is that we knew where the problems were but the challenge was the transfer of knowledge into implementation and to create meaningful interventions. There was a lack of understanding about eutrophication from the decision makers, and then there were discussions with the Research Commission and IEMS group (International group of Limnologists) who put together a framework for the South Africa relevant eutrophication training package for the Department which was not only national relevant but also regional relevant. The package was presented to the then DWAF but there was no uptake for it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Ndileka Mohapi, responded that the team will follow-up on this important and critical issue to ensure that there are structures in place to ensure implementation and proper follow-up because our water resources are really under threat and we know that water quality is one of those pressing issues that are really topical of late and we can't seat down and fold our arm and think that issues are going resolve themselves. • Mr Bradley Nethononda on the implementation, he said it seems like is still more on the policy level, there seem to be a lack of corporative government especially with local government and he believes that implementation also needs to cater for local government especially the municipalities. Ms Ndileka Mohapi noted the comment and mentioned that the Department is working hard on trying to get the local government to be part and parcel of the processes. She acknowledged that it is currently a challenge but we will get there. <p><u>Discussion on the meeting chat box:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement measures need to be put in place, to focus especially on municipal WWTW (Prof Johann Tempelhoff) • If I'm not mistaken the last Blue and Green drop reports were issued in 2014 (Prof Johann Tempelhoff). • Prof Johann Tempelhoff asked for the reintroduction of the Blue and Green Drop Strategy, in order to be able to secure monitoring data across a broad spectrum of bulk water users and services authorities. • The National Strategy should ideally be complemented by water resource system and catchment scale planning to ensure holistic, coherent and integrated roll-out of the requisite interventions at the catchment and system scale while operational regulatory actions continue as part of "business-as-usual" day-to-day activities. Suitable system and catchment scale planning to address eutrophication, as part of water resource planning, has 	<p>Ms Tovhowani Nyamande</p>

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		<p>generally been neglected and potential constitutes a gap. Water resource planning, traditionally, focussed on salinity and need to be extended to fully consider nutrient loading (Mr Jurgo van Wyk).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptually water resources management can be viewed as an inverted pyramid with the broad top focusing planning to the catchment level and further to the impoundment level (Dr Jeffrey Thornton). Capacity is needed at all levels: regulatory and administrative. operational (technical, wastewater treatment and water treatment), and stakeholder (individual land owners, businesses, etc.) This would involve universities, technical colleges, and citizen/business groups (Dr Jeffrey Thornton). Ms Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss responded to say it is important to start with the regional offices and CMAs as the catchment Managers. CMAs are part of the Department; they are responsible for the implementation of the Departmental strategies (Ms Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss). SDG Indicator 6.3.1D reporting on the “Proportion of water containing waste lawfully discharged” should be viewed as to complement the Strategy. Information obtained through SDG Indicator 6.3.1D reporting, and also through other means, such as through the Green Drop System (now linked to the Integrated Regulatory Information System (IRIS), etc., provides valuable information that can be used to track strategy implementation success. SDG Target 6.3 additionally proposes Management Targets to the UN to measure performance against as part of the SDG programme. The Strategy should probably influence these Management Targets to ensure that one set of Management Targets are employed (Mr Jurgo van Wyk). 	
9.	WAY FORWARD /ACTION	The PSC asked for the extension of deadline for submitting comments/inputs on draft Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis Report and the extension was granted, the new due date is 07 August 2020.	
10.	CLOSING REMARKS	The Chairperson thanked everyone who attended the meeting and urged all members to participate in the project.	
Compiled by  <hr/> Mr Samkele Mnyango (Project Coordinator) Production Scientist: SDS Department of Water and Sanitation Date: 27 July 2021		Approval  <hr/> Ms Tovhowani Nyamande (Project Manager) Director: SDS Department of Water and Sanitation Date: 27 July 2021	