



CONTINUATION AND MAINTENANCE OF RECONCILIATION STRATEGIES FOR ALL TOWNS IN THE NORTHERN PLANNING REGION

Terms of Reference for members of the Study Steering Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) requires consultation with “society at large” in the progressive development of water resource strategies such as the development of Reconciliation Strategies for All Towns in the four Water Resource Planning Regions (North, South, East and Central).

The institutional framework is one of the most important aspects of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), because it determines the effectiveness of policy implementation. Institutions (statutory and non-statutory) are also important in that they are the focus for the Act's requirements to consult widely with water users and other interested persons before policies and strategies relating to the management and use of water resources are implemented.

Although there is no specific provision in the National Water Act for creating non-statutory forums, the experience of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is that these voluntary bodies have proved to be of great value in IWRM. Stakeholder groups have made significant contributions to water resources management at a local level, by providing essential local knowledge, expertise and information. In this respect the DWS expect Stakeholders to play an important role in the implementation of water resource management strategies.

In 2012 the DWS commissioned four three-year studies by appointing Professional Service Providers for the continuation and maintenance of the bulk water supply reconciliation strategies for all towns in the country. The studies cover the four Water Resource Planning Regions and this study covers the Northern Planning Region. The strategies were developed in 2011 and need to be revised to remain relevant under prevailing conditions. The study is part of an on-going process to ensure sufficient water can be made available for development initiatives in and around all towns.

The primary function of the Study Steering Committee (SSC) will be to provide guidance to the direction of the outcomes of the Strategies and ensuring that the technical aspect of the study is transparent, open and consultative and that cooperative governance is embraced.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the SSC are to:

- Provide executive guidance to the direction and outcomes of the study;
- Ensure that the various Strategies and their associated recommendations are appropriately communicated; and
- Ensure that the Reconciliation Strategies, after their development, are implemented.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The roles and responsibilities of the SSC could include the following:

- Members have to attend meetings of the SSC and make certain that they are well prepared for meetings. In the event that they cannot attend, a mandated representative may attend on their behalf;
- Provide executive guidance to the direction and outcomes of the study;
- Provide supplementary information and input from a local and regional perspective;
- Facilitate strategic linkages with other initiatives;
- Disseminate information from the study to their and other relevant organizations;
- Incorporate the strategies' recommendations into development plans such as WSDP's, IDP's, Implementation Readiness Studies (RBIG), License Applications etc.; and
- Facilitate the acceptance and sign-off of the updated Reconciliation Strategies.

3.1 Scope of work in updating the Reconciliation Strategies

The primary objectives of the study are to review and refine the existing strategies, identify priority or “hot spot” towns requiring full revisions and document the process on how the recommended interventions (strategy actions) are to be implemented.

This is carried out in collaboration with the respective Regional Offices (ROs) in the Northern Planning Region. The ROs serve as the conduit through which the study team engage with the designated Water Service Authorities - either Local or District Municipalities.

A further key objective is to promote the reconciliation strategies as a core planning product giving the actions needed to secure the required water resources.

Appropriate integration with other planning and management processes, such as the Water Services Development Plans and Integrated Development Plans, as well as cooperation among stakeholder will be key success factors in formulating coherent recommendations and action plans.

The outcomes of the Reconciliation Strategies are specific interventions with particular actions needed to balance the water requirements with water availability through the implementation of regulations, demand management measures and infrastructure development options. Members of the SSC will actively participate in assisting to fulfill the scope of work in order to take ownership of the strategies and take up respective responsibilities for the implementation of interventions that will be identified.

4. ARRANGEMENTS

The SSC of the Continuation and Maintenance of Reconciliation Strategies for All Towns in the Northern Planning Region is a study committee formed to ensure the development and implementation of the various town Strategies. Whilst the committee comprises representatives from national government, provincial government, local government and civil society the meetings will be facilitated and chaired by the DWS: National Water Resource Planning.

Two SSC workshops were planned with the purpose of each workshop summarized below:

- SSC Workshop 1 (held in April 2013):
 - Introduce the study;
 - Establish and define the role of the SSC;
 - Outline findings during the Inception Phase;
 - Outline the scope of work, methodology, way forward and preliminary study programme; and
 - Prioritise the strategies to be updated.
- SSC Workshop 2 (this workshop):
 - Present methodology for updating strategies;
 - Present the updated reconciliation strategies prioritised at the SSC Workshop 1;
 - Agree on the preferred development scenarios; and
 - Obtain comments and inputs from the SSC.

The appointed Professional Service Provider to perform the following functions for the SSC:

- Send out invitations to the meetings;
- Organise the venue and catering;
- Assist with drawing up the agenda;
- Maintain a contact details database of all members; and
- Compile and timeously distribute the minutes of every meeting.