



**DEPARTMENT: WATER AFFAIRS
 AMATOLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM RECONCILIATION STRATEGY**

**MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP
 MEETING NO.11 HELD ON 31 AUGUST 2011 AT UWP OFFICES, EAST LONDON**

						ACTION																																																																																										
1.	WELCOME																																																																																															
	IT welcomed all present to the meeting.																																																																																															
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES																																																																																															
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3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was requested that the names and contact details on the distribution list be updated. Members are to forward updated details to NE. Members are to forward the contact details of their secretaries to NE if they want communication to be copied to their secretaries. 					NE/ALL ALL																																																																																										
	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA																																																																																															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was adopted unchanged. 																																																																																															
4.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING																																																																																															
4.1	Approval of the previous minutes																																																																																															
	The minutes were accepted, subject to the following changes:																																																																																															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 1: item 2.2: first bullet – Spelling of “Lucas” to be corrected. Page 3: item 5 – Spelling of “ASSOCC” to be corrected. Page 4: item 6.3: second bullet – Delete the words and “affirming”. 																																																																																															



		ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4: item 9: seventh bullet – Spelling of “Lester” to be corrected. • Page 5: item 5.1: second bullet – Spelling of “Bridledrift” to be corrected. • Page 5: item 5.1: second bullet – Changed “agreement” to “proposal”. 	
4.2	<i>Matters arising not on the Agenda</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Presentation to Office of the Premier/O.P representative (<i>Item 4.2 – bullet 1</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ AL to obtain the name of the new O.P representative to sit on the ASSSC and forward it to NE for inclusion on the membership list. AL ➢ IT stated that this person should preferably be involved in the preparation of the provincial IDP. AL ➢ AL to facilitate presentation of all 3 reconciliation strategies at the next PROWAC meeting. ➢ Letter to BCMM (<i>Item 4.2 – bullet 2</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ MM-BCM reiterated the need for the letter from DWA to BCMM highlighting the need for BCMM to implement WC/WDM on a sustained basis going forward. IT to follow-up in this regard. IT ➢ Framework for EWRs (<i>Items 4.2 – bullet 3</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ AL advised that a gauging weir has been installed at the Abbotsford causeway and that data would be available from Mr. H. Botha of DWA. (Abbotsford Bridge Guage Site R3H008, Data records since 2005, Nahoon River). ➢ AL to facilitate that WS obtains copies of the record. AL ➢ Keiskamma Report (<i>Item 4.2 – bullet 4</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ WK confirmed that copies of the “Keiskamma Report” have been forwarded to the “All Towns Reconciliation Strategy” study team. 	
5.	ASSOC MATTERS	
5.1	<i>System Operation</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC stated he was operating the System as per the operating rules recently drafted by the “operating rules” consultants to ensure integrated System operation. • DC however stated that BCM were not operating Bridledrift Dam in accordance with the rules. DC stated that BCM did sign a once-off agreement to allow a transfer from Wriggleswade Dam to address supply constraints at Bridledraft Dam as a result of the drought, but had not signed the agreement for continued operation in accordance with the operating rules, which would be more financially beneficial to BCM. MM-BCM • Following extensive discussions, it was agreed that MM-BCM would follow-up with GC (Graham Cowley) in this regard and report back at the next meeting. 	
5.2	<i>Water Quality</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AL circulated graphs on dam levels, as well as levels of certain elements at the raw water intakes to the key water treatment plants in the system. No overall opinion in terms of water quality trends was provided. • WS advised that the information provided was not in accordance with what had been agreed to in the various prior workshops/work sessions with stakeholders. • WK reiterated the context of water quality aspects in terms of the Strategy, which states the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Operate the system to maximise yield ➢ Do not operate the system to address pollution via dilution 	



		ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Treat pollution at source ➤ The interventions to address pollution at source are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduction in saline effluent discharges (Responsibilities: Industry with DWA regulation) ➤ Reduce phosphate loading from point source e.g. WWTW (Responsibilities: BCMM with DWA regulation) ➤ Eliminate sewer leaks (Responsibility: BCMM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control of diffuse pollution from informal settlements (Responsibility: BCMM) <p>WK therefore advised that it was necessary to report on progress in implementing the above, and also to track trends of the general raw water quality of the system to be able to ascertain whether water quality trends were heading to levels which required extra ordinary interventions.</p> <p>There the reports need to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ By DWA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industry compliance with discharge permits. If not compliant, what initiatives are underway to ensure compliance. ▪ WWTW compliance with permits. If not compliant, what initiatives are underway to ensure compliance. ▪ Trends in water quality as per agreed template. Comment on general condition and whether additional interventions are required or will be required shortly. ➤ By BCMM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on activities to address non-compliant WWTW discharges. ▪ Report on activities to address diffuse pollution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was then agreed that the ASATSG (WK and WS) would assist in collectively drafting the water quality report with DWA:RO staff for the upcoming ASSSC meeting. The report needs to be completed by the end of September 2011 for inclusion in the pre-meeting circulation bundle. ➤ LJ advised that DWA had also received a query/request from BCMM to return effluent discharges from the Mdantsane WWTWs to the Bridledrift Dam and sought clarity on how to proceed in this regard. <p>During discussions it was also revealed that the “Ncera Nuts” project was proceeding (taking-up ±50% of the agriculture allocation) from Laing Damand that releases would soon need to be made to meet these requirements.</p> ➤ WK queried protocols regarding any aspect that involved a change in system yield or irrigation requirement, especially since discussions had already been held with Mr. K. Joubert of DoARD regarding the possible use of Mdantsane WWTW effluent for the Ncera Nuts project. KJ had advised it would be an acceptable option for the project. ➤ Following extensive discussions it was resolved that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DWA: RO had to be the point of entry and exit for all queries/applications. ➤ The ASATSG needed to provide comments in terms of the potential impact of the application in terms of reconciliation planning. ➤ That WK was to send DC a reminder for him to engage with the DWA: RO in this regard. <p>WS also reminded of the importance of considering environmental implications early in these processes (as opposed to an add-on at a later stage) to ensure optimum approval) implementation process.</p>	



		ACTION
5.3	<p><i>Annual Restrictions Decision</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussions held 	
6.	HYDROLOGICAL MODELLING	
7.	WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT	
7.1	<p><i>Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM-BCM advised that the draft strategy report was still pending but that it would be available prior to the upcoming ASSSC meeting. 	
7.2	<p><i>Update of Projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM-BCM presented a report on WC/WDM projects being undertaken by BCMM: MM-BCM stated that BCMM had not provided counter funding for the upcoming financial year for WC/WDM projects. AL advised that DWA had made R15 million available to BCMM to assist in implementing WC/WDM and that there was a need to show expenditure against the first R5 million tranche. 	<p>MM-BCM</p> <p>MM-BCM</p>
7.3	<p><i>Reporting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed WC/WDM reporting template was included in the meeting pack but was not discussed at the meeting. 	
8.	RE-USE	
8.1	<p><i>BCM Re-Use Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM-BCM confirmed that the first draft of the re-use strategy had been received from the PSP and comments passed on the document. The second draft of the strategy document is scheduled to be received next week. IT recommended that the strategy document be circulated via the ASATSG for perusal and comment, to ensure alignment with the requirements of the reconciliation strategy, prior to submission to BCMM council for approval. IT stated it would be very disruptive if BCMM council approves the strategy only for the ASATSG not to support it. 	MM-BCM
9.	<p>HISTORICAL WATER USE</p> <p>WK presented the historical requirement graphs of the system and individual dams and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A downward trend in water requirement for the system as a whole. A 10.2% /a decrease in raw water requirement between 2008 and 2011 for the Lower Buffalo (attributed to a reduction in transfer and treatment losses between Bridledrift Dam and through the Umzonyana Water Treatment Plant). A 1.4% /a decrease in potable water requirement between 2010 and 2011 (reason for decrease unknown/uncertain). The divergent trend between raw and potable water requirement for the Upper and Middle Buffalo (i.e. increasing raw water trend losses-reason unknown). 	



		ACTION
10.	WATER QUALITY REPORTING <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussed under item 5.2 above.This item will no longer be included on future agendas.	
11.	COMMUNICATION	
11.1	Press Release <ul style="list-style-type: none">IT advised that the press release had not been approved and requested that LF prepare an updated press release.	IT
11.2	News Letter <ul style="list-style-type: none">LF advised of progress on the two newsletters (WC/WDM and Re-use) and requested copies of the draft strategies as soon as possible to assist in this regard.LF confirmed that he had to re-issue the previous newsletter to the new BCM councillors for their information.	MM-BCM
12.	SURFACE WATER OPTIONS SCREENING WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">WK was requested to start preparing for the workshop to be held in February 2012 and that drafts of the workshop documentation should be available for the next ASATSG meeting.The dates and attendance will be finalised at the next ASATSG meeting.	WK ALL
13.	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS	
13.1	ASATSG Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 November 2011 at 10:30.	
13.2	ASSSC Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">11 October 2011 – EL Golf CourseThe following meeting will be held before the end of March, as UWP's contract will come to an end at the end of March.	
14.	CLOSURE <p>IT thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting.</p>	



DISTRIBUTION LIST

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