

DEPARTMENT: WATER AFFAIRS AMATOLE SYSTEM RECONCILIATION STRATEGY STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No. 3 HELD ON 19 MAY 2010 AT 9.00 AM AT THE EAST LONDON GOLF CLUB

ACTION

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

PvN welcomed all to the third meeting of the Amatole System Strategy Steering Committee and then afforded all present opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance:

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3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The draft agenda circulated prior to the meeting was adopted.

4. RECAP OF STRATEGY AND FUNCTIONS OF ASSSC

IT gave a brief recap of the Reconciliation Strategy and the functions of the ASSSC, summarised as follows:

Reconciliation Strategy Objective

To ensure that appropriate projects/interventions are timeously implemented to ensure that predicted water requirements can be met by the yield from the Amatole Water Supply System at an accepted assurance of supply, over a 30 year planning horizon.

Identified interventions

The following interventions have been identified in terms of the Strategy, in order of decreasing priority, to ensure reconciliation:

- Water conservation and water demand management
- Water re-use
- Surface water augmentation



		ACTION
	 The following additional interventions have also been identified. Desalination (will only to be considered for implementation once the findings of pilots being undertaken by others have been received and reviewed for appropriateness in this instance). Enhancement of streamflows (not considered for reconciliation, but being implemented on an ongoing basis as best practice e.g. maintenance). 	
	Functions of the ASSSC The key functions of the ASSSC are to: • Ensure / facilitate the implementation of the Strategy; • Review and update the Strategy as required (ensure that it remains relevant); and • Communicate the Strategy.	
5. 5.1	ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES Acceptance of the minutes The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting.	
5.2	 Matters arising not on the agenda Verification of irrigation abstractions: ➤ Not considered relevant in this instance and therefore not discussed further. 	
	 Inclusion of the Strategy on inter governmental forums: AL advised that he is still in the process of getting the Strategy onto the various Provincial Intergovernmental forums. 	AL
	 Memberships and ToR's of respective committees: These have been updated, adopted and circulated to all parties. They will also be sent to the new ASSSC members. 	WK/NE
	 Representation by Department of Land Affairs (DOLA) on the ASSSC Not considered relevant in this instance and will therefore not be invited to join the ASSSC. 	
	 Clarification of registration of water use from Wriggleswade IT confirmed the need for the following: To correct registrations Issue a letter to ADM cancelling the water use registered Submit a new/formal license application for consideration 	DWA:RO DWA:RO ADM
6.	ADOPTION OF THE STRATEGY	
6.1	Buffalo City Municipality MM-BCM confirmed that BCM Engineering Standing and Mayoral Committees have adopted the Strategy and that BCM have forwarded documentation to this effect to the ASATSG.	
6.2	 Amatola Water SR confirmed that the Board had adopted the Strategy. SR to forward documentation to this effect to the ASATSG. 	SR
6.3	 Amathole District Municipality MS confirmed ADM's continued involvement on the respective Reconciliation committees but stated that ADM would not be adopting the Strategy in its current form. ADM do not have an issue per se with the Strategy, but want the Great Kei area to be incorporated with the Strategy. Given the above and the current extent of the ADM within the project area, this was not considered significant to the continued implementation of the Strategy and formal adoption of the Strategy by DWA. 	
6.4	 Kubusi Irrigation Board RF confirmed that the KIB were involved in the development of the Strategy and would continue to sit on the ASSSC. Therefore, given the above and the extent and nature of their current water use, formal adoption was not considered a prerequisite. 	



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6.5	Department of Water Affairs IT confirmed that DWA senior management are aware of the Strategy. IT however stated that, given the above, DWA will now move forward with formal adoption of the Strategy.	JvR/IT
6.6	 Provincial Government IT confirmed that Provincial Government are not required to adopt the Strategy, but that it is merely intended to give them a presentation on the Strategy to keep them abreast of developments, and afford them opportunity to have representation on the ASSSC. A presentation has not as yet been given to the Office of the Premier, despite several informal attempts to make contact with the relevant person(s). DWA will therefore be drafting letter to the Premier to facilitate the above. 	JvR/IT
7.	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY Copies of presentations were either included in Annexure A of the meeting bundle or were made available at the meeting.	
7.1 7.1.1	 Water Conservation and Water Demand Management Buffalo City Municipality MM-BCM gave an overview of initiatives undertaken to date as well as ongoing/planned initiatives; BCM were advised to approach DoE to act as implementing agents to address water issues at schools. 	
7.1.2	 Amathole District Municipality MS provided a brief report of work being undertaken/ planned throughout the ADM's area of jurisdiction. It was confirmed that the impact of potential savings ADM can achieve through WC/WDM within the Amatole area (Stutterheim and a few rural villages only) is nominal, and therefore does not warrant inclusion of projects in future reconciliation planning. ADM are however to continue to report losses and attempt to reduce these (within Amatole Area only), at future meetings. PvN commended MS/ADM for having their presentation available prior to the meeting and encouraged others to follow suit. 	MS
7.1.3	 Amatola Water SR provided a brief report on the losses at their respective WTP's and on their bulk pipelines. It was confirmed that the potential saving AW can achieve through WC/WDM within the Amatole area is nominal, and therefore does not warrant inclusion of projects in future reconciliation planning. AW are however to continue to report on losses and initiatives to address these at future meetings. 	CT/SR
7.1.4	 Kubusi Irrigation Board RF reported that the KIB are continuously looking into ways of improved irrigation efficiency. He did however stat that there is a need to install raw water meters to measure flows, but that these were expensive. JJ confirmed the difficulties and costs in setting-up a raw water measuring systems. KIB are however to continue to report on initiatives being taken at future ASSSC meetings. 	КІВ
7.2 7.2.1	 Re-use Buffalo City Municipality MM- BCM stated that re-use is being considered as part of the proposed regional WWTWs at Reeston and Zwelitsha. WK stated that more comprehensive information is required to facilitate / update reconciliation scenario planning. WK to meet with BCM prior to the next ASSSC meeting to obtain the information necessary for reconciliation scenario planning. 	WK/GC/ MM-BCM
7.3 7.3.1	Surface Water Augmentation Completion of Kubusi/Yellowwoods Link (DWA:OA) It was stated that, following the findings/recommendations of the Operating Rules Study, since the System yield optimisation entails a sustained release from Wriggleswade of the same order as the limit set due to environmental considerations of the kwaNqwebu River, the need to continue investigating mitigation measures for higher flows, will be reviewed.	JvR/IT



		ACTION
7.3.2	Other Options (DWA:OA) IT confirmed that DWA:OA has not commenced with any feasibility studies to date. It was agreed that, despite the Strategy having set time frames for studies, there is now a need to specifically instruct DWA: OA to commence with specific studies. This will follow a review of the reconciliation scenario planning i.e. review of project start dates.	WK/IT
7.4 7.4.1	Depart of Water Affairs IT confirmed that the findings of the pilot studies being undertaken by other were not yet available. IT did however state that there is significant investigative BCM should do in the interim, in particular ito location(s) of plants, water quality tests and conceptual layouts of distribution networks.	
7.4.2	Buffalo City Municipality No discussions were held in this regard.	
7.5	Stream flow enhancement IT provided a brief update on the work being undertaken by DWA: WfW in the Amatole area. The focus is currently on the Kubusi area.	
8. <i>8.1</i>	MONITORING OF THE STRATEGY Status Report The Status Report was made available to the meeting and included as Annexure B of the meeting bundle	
8.1.1	 Water Requirements WK presented a graph indicating the historical and revised projected water requirements; WK stated that the reasons for the trends/profile of the historical water requirement are not understood at present, nor whether the recent decline in requirements is sustainable. It was agreed that WK is to meet with BCM to clarify / understand the trend/profile in historical water requirement and to ascertain whether, given the trend, there is a need to review the projected water requirements. 	WK
8.1.2	 Water Availability WK stated that, depending on the findings of the Operating Rules Study on maximising system yield through operation optimisation, the system yield amounts to 94.94 million m³/s, at a 98% assurance of supply. WK stated there is no apparent need to review the water availability / hydrology at this point in time. 	
8.1.3	 Water Balance WK presented a graph depicting the water balance. The following observations were made: The predicted high growth requirement will equal the available yield by 2018, and possibly earlier (2016), depending on the extent/rate of development to the west of East London i.e. Kidds Beach & surrounding areas. The impact of a supply to the Great Kei area to the east of East London, should the necessary approvals be given now, are only estimated to occur after 2016 due to implementation constraints. This implies that an alternative source or significant supply reduction would need to be in place prior to 2016 to be able to supply this area. 	
8.2	 Conclusions and Recommendations Following discussions it was agreed that: There is a need to review the reconciliation planning scenarios in order to update project start dates The review of the reconciliation planning scenarios must be based on latest/relevant WC/WDM and Re-use data. 	WK WK/GC/ MM-BCM
9.	COMMUNICATION OF THE STRATEGY Copies of the presentation were made available at the meeting and incorporated in Annexure C of the meeting bundle	



		ACTION
9.1	Background LF provided a brief recap of the Communication Strategy adopted at the ASSSC meeting of November 2009.	
9.2	 Press Release LF presented a copy of the proposed press release to be issued, the proposed release mechanism and the date for the release. Following debate it was agreed that: The release should be made by DWA, via the DWA:RO liaison officer. There is a need to keep the liaison officers of BCM, award ADM informed. The release should not be delayed. The ASATSG should approve the final content of the release, if no comments are received from the ASSSC members within a week of the meeting. 	AL/LF LF ASATSG
9.3	 Newsletter / Flyer LF presented a copy of the proposed news letter and time frames and mechanism to the circulation. Following debate it was agreed that: The time frames and mechanisms are acceptable The final contents of the news letter be approved by the ASATSG, if no comments are received from ASSSC members within a week of the meeting. 	ASATSG
9.4	Status Report IT advised that it could be made available on request, but that JvR may require further edits prior to broad circulation.	
9.5	Communiqué to DWA Senior Management IT advised of the various reports (on all reconciliation strategies) are being prepared by DWA for circulation both internally and externally.	
10.	ASOCC REPORT Current operation and challenges SR reported that: A transfer is currently being made from Wriggleswade to Bridledrift dam and that the transfer will likely be several months in duration, given the transfer rate and the extent to which Bridledrift has been allowed to drop. The flow/transfer rates were being monitored at various points along the route. There is a need to increase the transfer rate from the current 1m³/s to 1.4m³/s to ensure sustained supplies to East London and to allow for some increase in dam level. The profile of the bottom of the Bridledrift dam appears to be different to that recorded on as-built records. Land is being exposed at higher levels than anticipated. BCM are reducing demand on Bridledrift and increasing supplies from Nahoon. Following discussions PvN stated that it was DWA's decision to increase the transfer rate, and that it did not require external authorisation to do so. A nominal increase in the transfer rate now, would prevent the need for an increased transfer rate at a later date. The decision to increase the transfer rate would therefore be taken internally.	DC
10.2	 Operating rules study JP gave a presentation on the work being undertaken via the Operation Rules Study. A copy of the presentation was made available at the meeting. The presentation is summarised below. 	
10.2.1	 Water Availability/System optimisation System optimisation initiatives do not alter the System yield, in that the benefits are offset by increased system losses in the conveyance. 	
		ACTION



10.2.2 Operating Procedures/Policy

- Optimal operating procedures are as follows:
 - Draw down on lower dams (Bridledrift & Nahoon) to 30% of FSC before transferring from Wriggleswade.
 - The transfers to Nahoon and/or Laing dam are to meet water requirements only and not to increase dam levels.
 - The following transfer rates are recommended

Wriggleswade to Nahoon
 Wriggleswade to Laing
 Laing to Bridledrift
 0.8m³/s
 1.3m³/s
 1.1m³/s

10.2.3 | Annual restrictions

- Restrictions are to be introduced when the total System storage is at 45%.
- Restrictions are to be introduced for Rooikrantz dam supply area when dam at 60% of FSL.
- The need for restrictions is unlikely at present, but may need to be considered as a short-term mechanism to allow Bridledrift dam level to restore to 30% of FSC.

10.2.4 Climate Change

Based on the information currently available, the impact of climate change does not pose such
a significant threat that its impact needs to be incorporated in future reconciliation planning.

11. GENERAL

- WK stated that water quality was addressed in the development of the Strategy, but that it was at present not a key focus in implementing the Strategy.
- Following discussions it was agreed that the ASATSG are to submit a proposal for addressing water quality ito the Strategy, for consideration at the ASSSC of October 2010.

ASATSG

ASOCC

12. SUMMARY OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ASATSG

- Provide new ASSSC members with TORs and membership lists.
- Meet with BCM to better understand WC/WDM and reuse initiatives and planning.
- Use the above and review reconciliation planning scenarios.
- Approve contents of press release and newsletter/flyer and release/circulate.
- · Prepare proposal to address water quality aspects ito the Strategy.

13. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

5 October 2010

14 CLOSURE

PvN thanked all for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting.



DISTRIBUTION LIST





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