

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

**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No. 5
HELD ON 19 APRIL 2011 AT 8.30 AM AT THE EAST LONDON GOLF CLUB**

						ACTION
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION					
	PvN welcomed all to the fourth meeting of the Amatole System Strategy Steering Committee.					
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES					
2.1	Attendance:					
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2.2	Apologies:					
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	Rob Featherstone	Kubusi Irrigation Board				feather@hazeldean.co.za
3.	ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA					
	The draft agenda circulated prior to the meeting was adopted without changes.					
4.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2010					
4.1	Acceptance of the minutes					
	The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting subject to the following changes:					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pg1: Item 2.1: Replace "Pieter" with "Peter". • Pg3: Item 5.5.1: Bullet 2: Replace "re-use" with "sea water desalination". • Pg4: Item 6: Bullet 3: Sub-bullet 4: Replace "DWA:OA" with "BCM". • Pg4: Item 6: Bullet 3: Sub-bullet 5: Insert "BCM" in the action column. • Pg4: Item 6: Bullet 4: Remove "BCM" from the action column. • Pg4: Item 6: Bullet 7: Remove "WK" from the action column and insert under bullet 6. 					
4.2	Matters arising not on the agenda					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of the Reconciliation Strategies on Provincial intergovernmental forums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AL/IT advised that an internal inter-departmental liaison meeting was scheduled for 12 May 2011, where the above matter would be addressed further. 					



		ACTION
5.	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY	
5.1	Water Conservation and Water Demand Management	
5.1.1	<p><i>Buffalo City Municipality Matters Arising</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM-BCM advised that BCM had appointed a service provider to undertake a review/enhancement of the existing WC/WDM Strategy (2004) and that it should be completed by June 2011. • MM-BCM presented a report on the WC/WDM projects being implemented and planned by BCM, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Ongoing projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrades to the Umzonyana WTP ➢ Planned projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raising of the Umzonyana weir and upgrading the raw water gravity mains. ○ Relocating of midblocks and installation of meters in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mdantsane NU 1-10 ▪ Reeston ▪ Duncan Village ▪ Zwelitsha ➢ Ongoing internal initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meter audits and cleaning/aligning of meter and billing databases ○ Top consumer audits ○ Consumer awareness programmes ➢ Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UAW = 40% to 45% ○ Large number of unmetered erven ○ Large number of flat rated erven (cleaned consumption) ○ Pipe bursts on old AC pipes ○ Adequacy/functionality of bulk meters ○ Securing of adequate budget to implement projects • During discussions regarding the effectiveness of the projects implemented, WK highlighted the decline in water requirement from the Lower Buffalo Water Supply Scheme, as well as the fall in growth in requirement from the Upper/Middle Buffalo Water Supply Scheme. • Following the discussions it was resolved that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Reporting should highlight the savings, costs and cost benefits/pay back return-periods of projects implemented. ➢ WK to obtain a reporting template from PH, review its appropriateness in the BCM context and forward it to BCM. ➢ The draft letter from DWA to BCM (never issued) reinforcing the importance of WC/WDM and water re-use be reviewed and that the focus should be on complimenting BCM on efforts to date and assurance of support for future initiatives, where possible. ➢ The above letter should be addressed to the municipal manager ➢ There is opportunity to submit ACIP funding applications for WC/WDM . ➢ That WC/WDM funding applications could/should be directed to National Treasury, especially where linked to the reduction of non-revenue water. 	<p>MM-BCM</p> <p>MM-BCM</p> <p>PH/WK</p> <p>JvR/IT</p> <p>MM-BCM</p> <p>MM-BCM</p>
5.1.2	<p><i>Amatola Water</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR provided a brief report on the losses at their respective WTPs and on their bulk pipelines. • SR advised that certain of the bulk meters had been re-calibrated, following investigations of the distribution losses on the Laing Dam System. 	
5.1.3	<p><i>Amathole District Municipality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report was received from the ADM. • It was agreed that ADM reporting should remain on the agenda, despite the nominal savings potential in this instance. 	
5.1.4	<p><i>Kubusi Irrigation Board</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report was received from the KIB. • It was agreed that KIB reporting should remain on the agenda, despite the nominal savings potential in this instance, as well as the uncertainty as to who should benefit from any future savings. 	



		ACTION
5.2	Re-use	
5.2.1	<p><i>Department of Water Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JvR presented an overview of progress in developing the National Re-use Strategy, its linkage with the National Water Resource Strategy and the processes/time frames to finalise these. JvR undertook to forward the draft National Re-use Strategy to WK for circulation to key stakeholders for their perusal/comment. 	JvR/WK
5.2.2	<p><i>Potential for Water Re-Use within the AWSS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WK advised that comments had been received and that the report on the "Potential for Water Re-use to Augment Supplies to the AWSS" had been finalised circulated to stakeholders, including BCM. 	
5.2.3	<p><i>Buffalo City Municipality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM-BCM advised that input was received from the ASATSG in defining the scope of work required to develop a Water Re-Use Strategy, that a service provider has been appointed and that the strategy should be available by June 2011. DWA requested opportunity to review/have input into the Strategy before it was submitted to Council for approval. MM-BCM also advised that budgets have been approved to upgrade to the Zwelitsha, Reeston and Gonubie WWTWs and that re-use opportunities were being investigated as part of these upgrades. It was requested that further details on the re-use investigations be presented at future meetings. JB expressed EC-IDZs interest in obtaining a copy of the National Re-use Strategy given the issues of waste water treatment on the West Bank and opportunities for methane harvesting and use in the IDZ. JB also expressed his interest in better understanding the costs involved for reclaimed water for industrial use. 	<p>MM-BCM</p> <p>MM-BCM</p> <p>MM-BCM</p>
5.3	Surface Water Augmentation Options	
5.3.1	<p><i>Sandile/Binfield Park Dams augmentation option</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WK presented his report on the above water augmentation option and highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Surplus yields from these dams appear to be significantly lower than what was presented in the Strategy Study report. ➤ The yields available for use are highly dependent on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growth projections used for the of towns fed from these schemes ▪ The effectiveness of WC/WDM interventions on these schemes i.e. in implementing the All Towns Reconciliation Strategy ▪ The losses due to the releases between Sandlie Dam and Craig's Head weir ➤ There is some uncertainty as to the accuracy of the yields of the dams, the extent to which the EWRs have been accounted for in these yields and that further investigations would be required to confirm these yields. ➤ DoARD have provided preliminary agricultural water requirements and are in the process of finalising these. ➤ There is an urgent need to license and regulate the irrigation use from these dams. Following discussions it was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The level of detail of the report is adequate for now ➤ The need for further studies as well as the timing thereof, will be advised by the outcomes of the review of the Strategy at the end of the year. 	ASATSG
5.3.2	<p><i>Screening Workshop</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The framework for the proposed screening workshop, as well as the reconciliation option template were provided in the meeting bundle The need for and timing of the workshop was discusses, including the possible impact of the next surface water augmentation option on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The water supply planning for the Great Kei municipal area and other cross boundary Areas. ➤ BCM planning for the upgrade of their water treatment requirements. Following discussion it was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The screening workshop would be held after the next ASSSC meeting, either later in the year or early the following year. ➤ The date for the workshop will be determined following the ASSSC meeting scheduled for October 2011. 	ASSSC



		ACTION
5.4	Desalination	
5.4.1	<p><i>Department of Water Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JvR presented an overview of progress in developing the National Desalination Strategy, its linkage with the National Water Resource Strategy and the processes/time frames to finalise these JvR undertook to forward the draft Strategy to WK for circulation to key stakeholders for their perusal. 	JvR/WK
5.5	Stream flow enhancement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no discussions held in this regard. 	
6.	REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY	
	Only for discussion at the next ASSSC meeting.	
7.	COMMUNICATION OF THE STRATEGY	
7.1	<p>Press Release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LF advised that the press statement, focused on WC/WDM and linked to the pending water restrictions had been submitted to DWA. JvR advised that the statement had not been released for a variety of reasons and that it would be necessary to prepare a revised statement, given the subsequent change in circumstances. JvR recommended that the statement be ready for release within 6 months and that it focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress made in implementing the Strategy Boundary issues / alignment with the All Towns Reconciliation Strategy Study 	LF/ ASATSG
7.2	<p>Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LF advised that comments had been received on news letter No.2 and that it had been circulated in accordance with the updated distribution list. LF presented frameworks for news letter No. 3 focusing on WC/WDM and Water Re-use. Following discussions it was agreed that separate newsletters be prepared on each subject, so as not to dilute the content. LF to draft the necessary newsletters for consideration prior to distribution. 	LF
7.3	<p>Communiqué to Stakeholder Senior Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussions were held in this report. 	
8.	ASOCC REPORT	
8.1	<p>Current operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC had forwarded a report detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam levels in the AWSS, noting that they had recovered significantly following good rains between November 2010 and January 2011. That the system was at 80% of FSC with storage at 188.9 million m³ That water was being released from Wriggleswade Dam (spilling) to Nahoon Dam effective from 25 March 2011. That transfers to Bridledrift Dam had commenced on 18 May 2010 and ceased in February 2011. BCM was billed for releases made to Bridledrift Dam during the drought Discussions have been held with BCM with the view of obtaining Council approval to register a water use above Bridledrift Dam, making BCM liable to pay the Amatola System Tariff. This would however be cost effective (cheaper than the cost of the recent transfers) and would facilitate system operation. That no approval from BCM to this proposal had been received. 	
8.2	<p>Annual Restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting is planned for May 2011 to review/determine the annual restriction decision. 	ASSOCC



		ACTION
8.3	Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WS presented the framework for water quality reporting by ASSOCC to the ASSSC, highlighting the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The need to report on compliance monitoring of all licensed effluent discharges➤ The need for a simplistic tool to assess the raw water quality (conversion of data already being captured to information) without the need for additional effort.➤ The ASSSC approved the framework and requested ASSOCC to report in accordance with the framework at the next ASSSC meeting.	
9.	FRAMEWORK FOR FINALISING THE EWRs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WS presented a report on the proposed framework for finalising and implementing the EWR for the AWSS, background of and the framework entails the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Finalise the river classification for the reach of the Buffalo River downstream of Bridledrift Dam;➤ Determine the estuarine requirements for the Nahoon River; starting by installing gauging equipment at the Abbotsford causeway to record flows;➤ Review the need for a compensation release downstream of Wiggleswade Dam (given the short reach of the river before it joins the Toise River, a major tributary of the Kubusi River);➤ Determine the EWRs for the respective rivers once the protocols currently being piloted by others outside of the Amatole System have been finalised; and➤ Phase in the EWRs in accordance with the requirements of the Strategy.➤ JvR stated that there was no reason why the reserve below the Bridledrift Dam could not be signed off and undertook to investigate the matter.	
10.	DATES OF NEXT MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 October 2011	
11.	CLOSURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PvN thanked all for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting.	

Distribution List

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