



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

**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING No. 7
HELD ON 27 MARCH 2012 AT 8.30 AM AT THE EAST LONDON GOLF CLUB**

		ACTION																																																																																																												
1.	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</p> <p>PvN welcomed all to the seventh meeting of the Amatole System Strategy Steering Committee and requested all to introduce themselves to the meeting, there being certain new attendees.</p>																																																																																																													
2.	<p>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</p>																																																																																																													
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3.	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA</p> <p>The draft agenda circulated prior to the meeting was adopted without changes, although it was agreed to discuss item 4.2 bullet 4 (WRPM) under item 8.1 of the agenda.</p>																																																																																																													
4.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER 2011</p>																																																																																																													
4.1	<p>Acceptance of the minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without changes, as a true reflection of the previous meeting.</p>																																																																																																													



		ACTION
<p>4.2</p>	<p><i>Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proto CMA officials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ WK confirmed that the Proto CMA officials are being invited to attend both the ASSSC and ASATSG meetings. • Office of the Premier: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ WK confirmed that the OoP representative had been invited to the ASSSC meeting and that he had been sent the 2011 Status Report at the end of 2011. • Status Report 2011: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ WK confirmed that the 2011 Status Report had been updated, approved for circulation and circulated to all on the ASSSC distribution list at the end of 2011. • WRPM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Discussed under item 8.1. • DWA letter to BCMM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ IT confirmed that the letter from DWA to BCMM encouraging integrated system operation, implementing WC/WDM projects on a sustained basis and studying water re-use projects had been drafted and was awaiting the DG's signature. IT undertook to provide GC with a draft copy of the letter in the interim. 	<p>IT</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>INSTRUCTIONS / DECISIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS ASSSC MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated System Operation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ WK stated that there were in essence two action items in this regard; namely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DWA approving and implementing the recommended change to the approved operating rules, of transferring from Wriggleswade when it is spilling; and ▪ BCMM facilitating integrated system operation. ➢ It was agreed that DWA:RO were to resolve the approval of the recommended change to the system operating rules. ➢ It was stated that the System is not being operated as an integrated system at present, primarily as a result of BCMM's reluctance to accept Wriggleswade transfers during non drought periods. ➢ GC stated that whereas he was aware of the situation and the implications thereof, BCMM were not in a position to burden rate payers with additional costs when not specifically required. ➢ GC furthermore advised that BCMM were planning to construct a new WTP within BCMM boundaries in the vicinity of Kei Road, which would address current water quality and pumping challenges within the supply network. ➢ Following discussions it was agreed there is a need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A workshop in June 2012 to facilitate integration between water resource and distribution/treatment infrastructure planning. ▪ Modelling the impact of the proposed Kei Road WTP on System Yield. ▪ Developing various planning scenario's. ▪ Aligning project planning with funding streams. This will be investigated as part of the workshop. 	<p>DWA:RO/ Dr Mwaka</p> <p>ASATSG</p> <p>ASATSG</p> <p>ASATSG</p> <p>ALL</p>



		ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and Water Demand Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was agreed to discuss this matter in more detail under item 6.2.1. • Letter to BCMM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed under item 4.2 bullet 5 above. <p>6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY</p> <p>6.1 Integrated System Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed under item 5 bullet 1 above. <p>6.2 Water Conservation and Water Demand Management</p> <p>6.2.1 Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy / Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The following were noted with regard to the BCMM WC/WDM Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nominal comments on the draft Strategy document were received from ASSSC members. ○ Consideration was given to increasing the percentage targets or reducing the time frames for the reduction of non-revenue water and increasing the billed metered consumption, but the targets were considered appropriate for now and would be reviewed with subsequent annual reviews of the Strategy. ➤ The Strategy document has therefore been finalised by MM-BCMM and submitted to their Engineering Standing Committee and Council for consideration / approval. Formal approval of the document is pending. ➤ BCMM have however accepted both the WC/WDM and Re-use targets set in the 2011 Status Report. • Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GC stated the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some R259 million had been budgeted over the next 3 years to 2014 for WC/WDM. ○ The key focus areas / interventions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Umzonyana: filters and clarifiers (reduce wastage) ▪ Buffalo River Pumping System: Raise weir and upsize raw water conveyance capacity (reduce spillages). ▪ Mains replacement in Inland and Coastal areas. ▪ Refurbishment of communal ablution blocks. ➤ MM-BCMM presented a report highlighting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiatives to better understand unaccounted for water vs. real losses by developing IWA type water balances for each reservoir supply zone. ▪ Relocation of midblocks – Dimbaza, Mdantsane zone 9. ▪ Retrofitting:- Phola Park, Dimbaza, Mdantsane zones 1, 2, 3 & 4. ▪ Installation of bulk and retail meters. ▪ Community awareness campaigns. 	<p>MM-BCMM</p> <p>MM-BCMM</p>



ACTION

- Achievements / Challenges
 - MM-BCMM presented a report highlighting the following:
 - Achievements
 - BCMM accepting the 2011 Status Report targets
 - Retail meter audits completed
 - Water saving of ±8000 l/month as a result of interventions in Phola Park, which has resulted in a revenue cost saving of ±R41,000 per month.
 - IT congratulated BCMM on their efforts in this regard.
 - Challenges
 - Meter reading
 - Flat-rated consumption (deemed consumption at unmetered households), and resistance from homeowners to have their households metered.
 - Illegal connections
 - Budgetary constraints
- Reporting
 - WK advised that:
 - No comments on the proposed reporting template were received
 - The template is based on the one received from DWA: WUE but modified to suit local requirements and to align with the BCMM WC/WDM Strategy.
 - WK also confirmed that, whereas many aspects addressed in the BCMM reports were required to be reported on in terms of the template, the format of the reports was not in accordance with the recommended template (i.e. does not allow one to track progress in implementing the Strategy).
 - It was however still considered more appropriate to use this template for the end of the year ASSSC meeting.

MM-BCMM

6.2.2 Amatola Water

- Strategy / Planning
 - SR mentioned AW's ongoing project planning (mainly infrastructure related) and that the Rooikrantz WTP has been moth balled.
- Water Losses
 - SR presented the losses on their systems as follows:

	WTP	Network
Laing	9.6%	4.6%
Nahoon	3.6%	5.8%

- Projects
 - SR advised of the following ongoing projects
 - Nahoon Rising main: Replacement of first 1 km (old pipe).
 - Pipeline to re-use backwash water at Laing WTP.

6.2.3 Amathole District Municipality

- No report received from the ADM.
- GC (BCMM) however advised that agreements had been reached with ADM to include extending supplies up the East Coast in future planning.



		ACTION
<p>6.2.4 <i>Kubusi Irrigation Board</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report was received from the KIB. <p>6.3 Re-use</p> <p>6.3.1 <i>Department of Water Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JvR noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The National Re-use Strategy is in final draft format; ➢ The National Desalination Strategy is also in final draft form; ➢ Both these strategies form part of the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS) and will be published with the draft NWRS for public comment; and ➢ The draft NWRS is soon to be published for comment (the draft is however available for review from the DWA website). <p>6.3.2 <i>Buffalo City Municipality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy / Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It was confirmed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nominal comment had been received from ASSSC members on the draft BCMM Strategy document circulated for comment. ○ The ASATSG are in the process of undertaking certain additional work to the Strategy, to ensure better alignment between the Re-use Strategy and the Reconciliation Strategy. ○ Work in this regard is ongoing and the Re-use Strategy will be submitted to BCMM Council for approval once these additions were completed. • Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ GC highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some R176 million has been allocated to the project to enhance BCMM's ability to implement water re-use over the next 3 years, i.e. to 2014. ○ The focus is on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementing a diversion of flows from the Central WWTW and Wilsonia industrial areas to the Reeston WWTW. ▪ Upgrading the Reeston WWTW and providing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provision for biological nutrient removal. ❖ Separation of industrial and domestic waste streams. ▪ GC advised that current planning is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Treat the industrial waste streams to meet the EWRs downstream of the Buffalo River Weir. ❖ Re-turning treated domestic effluent to the Bridledrift Dam for blending prior to re-use via the Umzonyana system. ▪ PJ of Goba gave a brief presentation on the proposed diversion and highlighted that planning considered the provision of 2 mains to allow for the separation of domestic and industrial waste streams. • Achievements / Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The following achievements were highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BCMM accepting the 2011 Status Report targets ○ BCMM needs to approve budgets to reach water re-use implementation readiness. 	<p style="text-align: right;">ASATSG/ MM-BCMM</p>	



		ACTION
<p>6.4</p> <p>6.4.1</p> <p>6.5</p> <p>6.5.1</p> <p>6.6</p> <p>6.6.1</p>	<p>Surface Water Augmentation Options</p> <p><i>Department of Water Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ IT confirmed that the workshop to screen / short-list surface water augmentation schemes for consideration for further study was held on 26 March 2012, that beneficial outcomes were achieved and that workshop documentation will be circulated to all parties in due course. ➢ Out of the 13 surface water schemes tabled, 3 were found to be relatively attractive and 3 more marginal. These 6 schemes will in due course be taken forward into pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, when it becomes clearer if, when and where a new surface water resource will be required. <p>Desalination</p> <p><i>Department of Water Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See 6.3.1 <p>Stream flow enhancement</p> <p><i>Working for Water</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ AH presented a report highlighting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The various Environmental Affairs initiatives in terms of Natural Resource Management. ○ The criteria used to prioritise working for water interventions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water resources. ▪ Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. ▪ Natural resources. ▪ Invasive alien plant species. • Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ AH noted the following relevant projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WfW Terrestrial Weed Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kubusi – catchments of Gubu and Wriggleswade dams. ▪ Buffalo – catchments of Rooikrantz and Maden dams. ○ WfW Aquatic Weed Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nahoon River – (Mechanical and biological control). ▪ Kubusi River – (Biological control). • Achievements / Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The recognition of the dangers of aquatic weeds and the allocation of dedicated budget for this purpose. ○ 363ha cleared in the Kubusi catchment ○ 706ha cleared in the Rooikrantz catchment ➢ Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Landownership – working on private property 	<p>ASATSG</p>



		ACTION
7.	COMMUNICATION OF THE STRATEGY	
7.1	Press Release	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was confirmed that the press statement was released at the end of last year. It was however stated that due to other news items at the time, it did not receive much exposure. It was also stated that local representatives were not made aware of the release and that none of the local press ran with the story. Following discussion it was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In future, once approved by DWA: HO, the press statement should simultaneously be released via DWA: ECRO. The local press should be made aware of the release in future. DWA: ECRO should give consideration to holding a media breakfast with each release. A new press statement should be prepared following this ASSSC meeting and that it should be ready for circulation for approval by the end of the week. 	DWA:RO DWA:RO DWA:RO LF
7.2	Newsletter	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The newsletter approved for circulation was presented for record purposes. It was stated that the newsletter and press statement should be released simultaneously within 2 weeks. 	LF
7.3	Communiqué to Senior Managements	
7.3.1	General	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JvR stated that it was imperative that reports (including minutes, presentations, reports etc.) be presented to senior management after each meeting. 	ALL
7.3.2	Department of Water Affairs	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT stated the 2011 Status Report was presented to DWA senior management at the end of 2011. 	
7.3.3	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM-BCMM stated that 2011 Status Report was presented to BCMM's Engineering Standing Committee at the beginning of 2012. 	
7.3.4	Amatola Water	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report in this regard was provided. 	
7.3.5	Amathole District Municipality	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report in this regard was provided. 	
7.3.6	Kubusi Irrigation Board	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report in this regard was provided. 	



		ACTION
<p>8. ASSOCC REPORT</p> <p>8.1 System Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restriction Allocations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EL stated he had, as requested at the previous ASSSC meeting, checked the restriction allocations applied in running the WRPM and had found them to be comparable, if not more liberal compared with those used in other systems. ➤ The nature of the user base was discussed and the limited number of agricultural and high assurance industrial user within the area were noted. ➤ JvR stated that the allocations were still too conservative as the max. % storage curve still resulted in there being significant storage in the System, and requested that the allocation be reviewed again with the view that the max.% storage curve approach 0% storage in time. JvR stated that the allocations would always be reviewed and adjusted as required during a drought cycle. • System performance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EL presented a report highlighting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage levels in SA (total) and the local WMA since 1980 and highlighted the sequence of wet and dry cycles, the steep drop in storage levels at the outset of a drought and the high likelihood of a dry cycle is the short-to medium-term. ○ The Amatole System was 99.6% full as at 19 March 2012; ○ The System is in a stable condition and restrictions are unlikely in the short to medium term. ○ That storage in the Amatole System is tracking the 25% curve, i.e. we are currently in a wet cycle. <p>8.2 Water Quality Report</p> <p>8.2.1 Department of Water Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report was circulated in advance of the meeting but no DWA: RO representative was available to present the report. • It was also noted that the report was incomplete and not in the required format. <p>8.2.2 Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report was provided at the meeting, although it was not specifically requested that BCMM report in this regard at this time. • WK however stated that in terms of the Strategy, BCMM should be reporting on activities being undertaken to address pollution at source, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improving the quality of effluent discharges from their respective WWTW's. ➤ Sewer leaks. ➤ Diffuse pollution through urban and rural informal settlements. 		<p>AL</p> <p>BCMM</p>



		ACTION
8.3	Annual Restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none">It was confirmed that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">ASSOCC should meet at least once a year and more frequently when necessary to address both quantity and quality of supply issues.The WRPM should be used for the May 2012 review and that the results should be presented at the next ASSOCC meeting, possibly in May 2012 or June 2012, as well as the planned workshop in June 2012 (proposed date – 13th of June 2012).	ASSOCC ASATSG
9.	DATES OF NEXT MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none">ASSSC Meeting 13 September 2012 at 08:00 for 08:30 – 15:30 at the East London Golf Course.	
10.	CLOSURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">PvN thanked all for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting.	

Distribution List



NAME	ORGANISATION	POSITION / DESIGNATION	TEL. NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	CELL PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Border Kei Chamber of Business		043-743 8438			
Andrew Hope	NRMP (WEW)	Technical Advisor	043-701 0326		083 385 9380	chope@environment.gov.za
Andrew Lucas	DWA:RO	Director: Regulation & Use	043-604 5403	043-604 5592	082 802 8564	lucasa@dwa.gov.za
Archie Thobejane	DWA : HO	D: Hydrological Engineering	012-336 7869	012-336 8295	082 903 4218	thobejanea@dwa.gov.za
Ashley Starkey	DWA:RO	CD:RO	043-604 5406	043-642 3647	082 809 5892	Starkeya@dwa.gov.za
B. Duba	Water Resoucrs ELIDZ		043-702 8200	043-702 8250		bonny@elidz.co.za
Bolekwa Kama	DWA : RO	Pro-CMA WMA 12 : Mzimvubu to Keiskamma	040-609 4330		079 894 4477	kamab@dwa.gov.za
Brian Noncembu	Environmental Affiars	Regional Manager : Amathole	043-707 4000			briant.noncembu@deat.escape.gov.za
Chris Ettmayr	IDZ	Senior Researcher	043-702 8214	043-702 8251	082 888 3297	chris@elidz.co.za
Cllr Zukiswa Faku	BCMM	Portfolio Councillor	043-705 2097	043-705 2097	082 327 4194	zukiswaf@buffalocity.gov.za
Craig Thompson	Amatola Water	Director Planning	043-707 3700	043-707 3701	082 550 6868	cthompson@amatolawater.co.za
Dennis Smith	BK-CoB		043-743 8438	043-743 2249		dsmith@eceng.co.za
David Langley	BCMM	Project Manager	043-705 2005	043-705 2194	083 607 8415	davidl@buffalocity.gov.za
Dewald Coetzee	DWA : WRI	CD : WRI	041-586 4884	041-586 0379	083 627 5920	coetzed@dwa.gov.za
Dr Beason Mwaka	DWA : WRPS	D : WRPS	012-336 8188	012-336 6731	082 807 6621	mwakab@dwa.gov.za
Edwin Lillie	(UWP) Hydrosol	Support Team : Hydrology	012-336 8887	086 671 6952	082 323 9443	edwin.lillie@wol.co.za
F. Ballim	Water Resources		033-342 5240	033-342 5240		faeza@waterresource.co.za
Galelo Mbambisa	DWA	Director: Water Sector Support			083 627 5929	mbambisa@dwa.gov.za
Glenn Daniell	DWA	WRIB				daniellg@dwa.gov.za
Graham Cowley	BCM	GM : Water, Sanitation & Scientific Services	043-705 2084	043-722 3606	082 655 7194	grahamc@buffalocity.gov.za
Ilse Viljoen	DWA: RO	AD: Institutional Establishment				viljoeni@dwa.gov.za
Isa Thompson	DWA : HO	NWRP : Study Leader	012-336 8647	012-336 8295	082 805 2158	thompsonl@dwa.gov.za
Jenny Pashkin	DWA:HO	WRPS:So DCE (South)	012-336 8625	086 621 2368	082 804 3143	pashkinj@dwa.gov.za
JF (Kowie) Joubert	DoA		043-683 5404	043-683 1829	083 286 0363	kowie.joubert@arg.ecprov.gov.za
Johan Burger	IDZ		043-702 8250	043-702 8217		johan@elidz.co.za
Johan van Rooyen	DWA : NWRP	D : NWRP	012-336 8814	012-336 8295	082 808 5652	vanrooyenj@dwa.gov.za
John Petzer	Goba	Office Manager	043-721 0135	043-721 1385	082 927 8987	johnmp@goba.co.za
Koos Viljoen	DWA	DWA:NWRI	042-243 6109	042-243 1801		viljoenk@dwa.gov.za
Landile Jack	DWA:RO	WQ:IE	043-701 0291		082 887 6458	jackl@dwa.gov.za
Larry Field	(UWP) Umhlaba	Support Team : Community/Spatial Planning	043-726 5408	043-721 2957	083 701 7132	larry@ikdev.co.za
Les Holbrook	BK-CoB	Executive Director	043-743 8438	043-743 2249		les@bkcob.co.za
Mark Westerberg	BCMM	PM: Sanitation	043-705 2126		082 652 1207	markw@buffalocity.gov.za
Martin Labuschagne	DWA : RO	WUE	048-881 3005	048-881 3545	083 627 5925	labuschagnem@dwa.gov.za
Masonwabe Mayekiso	BCM	WSA Manager	043-705 2464	043-743 5266	084 217 6325	masonwabem@buffalocity.gov.za
Menard Mugumo	DWA : HO	OA : CE (South)	012-336 6838	012-336 7399	082 804 5162	mugumom@dwa.gov.za
Mluleki Gumse	DWA:HO					mlulekig@dwa.gov.za
Michael Kawa	DWA : RO	DEAT	043-701 0328	086 614 2180	082 807 5641	mkawa@environment.gov.za
Michelle Meyer	DWA	PA to Dewald Coetzee				meyerm2@dwa.gov.za
Monde Nkasawe	Office of the Premier		043-642 1839			monde.nkosawe@otp.ecprov.gov.za
Mpumelelo Shezi	ADM	WSA Manager	043-701 5152	043-722 4081	083 517 9069	mpumelelos@amathole.gov.za
Mr. G.R. Kruse	AgriSA (PE)		041-363 1890			sharlene.matthews@agriec.co.za
Mr. Mxoli						Thami.mxoli@dhlqta.escape.gov.za
Natasha Ewing	UWP Consulting	Support Team : Secretary	043-721 0186	043-721 0288	082 400 8407	natashae@uwp.co.za
Nceba Ncunzana	BCM	D:Engineering Services	043-705 2408	043-743 5266		nceban@buffalocity.gov.za
Nico Jonker	ADM	D:Engineering Services	043-701 4004	043-722 4081	082 450 7647	nicoj@amathole.gov.za
Nomonde Mnuakwa	DWA	Chief Director: EC				
Paul Herbst	DWA : HO	D : WUE	012-336 7043	012-754 9926		herbstp@dwa.gov.za
Peter van Niekerk	DWA : HO	CD : IWRP	012-336 8762	012-336 8295	082 807 4981	vanniekerkp@dwa.gov.za
Pieter Viljoen	DWA : HO	DD : WQP	012-336 7514	086 620 6472	082 620 6475	viljoenp@dwa.gov.za
Rob Featherstone	Kubusi Irrigation Board	Chairman	043-683 2459	043-683 2459	083 235 1357	feather@hazeldean.co.za
Sieg Rousseau	Amatola Water	Senior Water Resources Manager	043-707 3000	043-707 3700	083 320 5262	srousseau@amatolawater.co.za
Siziwe Blie	DWA: RO	DD: Institutional Establishment				blies@dwa.gov.za
Siviwe Hanise					079 894 4477	Siviwe.hanise@eclqta.gov.za
Solly Mabuda	DWA : OA	D : OA	012-336 8477	012- 336 7399	082 805 9139	MabudaS@dwa.gov.za
Stephen Mallory	Water Resources			012-365 2121	083 415 7223	Stephen@waterresources.co.za
Stephen Mullineux	DWA : RO	WR&U	048-881 3005	048-881 3545	082 809 5687	mullineux@dwa.gov.za
Stephen Nash	ADM	Dep. Dir. Operation & Maintenance	043-703 5854	043-743 5151	082 443 2739	stephenn@amathole.gov.za
Thabo Makaluza	Amatola Water		043-707 3700	043-707 3701		tmakaluza@amatolawater.co.za
Theo Geldenhuys	DWA : RO	WR&U	048-881 3005	048-881 3545	082 808 0499	geldenhuyst@dwa.gov.za
Vien Kooverji	DWA:					kooverjiv@dwa.gov.za
Wayne Selkirk	(UWP) PCT	Support Team : Water Quality / Environment	043-740 4735	043-740 2238	083 580 2766	pctoffice@mweb.co.za
Wayne Ketteringham	UWP Consulting	Support Team : Project Leader	043-721 0186	043-721 0288	082 774 9898	waynek@uwp.co.za