



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**AMATOLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
RECONCILIATION STRATEGY**

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2012**

APRIL 2012

1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

1.1 Amatole System Strategy Steering Committee (ASSSC) Meetings

ASSSC meetings were held at the East London Golf Course on 11 October 2011 and 27 March 2012.

Following the meetings, the following have been / are being undertaken:

- Minutes of the meetings have been prepared and circulated;
- The 2011 Status Report has been finalised and circulated;
- A newsletter and press statement for the latter part of 2011 were prepared and circulated / released;
- A further newsletter and press statement for the first half of 2012 are being prepared for circulation / release;
- A letter has been issued to BCMM encouraging their ongoing efforts in terms of Water Conservation and Water Demand Management (WC/WDM) and highlighting the importance of Integrated System Operation, WC/WDM and Water Re-Use for System Reconciliation, as well as their roles and responsibilities in this regard.

The next ASSSC meeting has provisionally been scheduled for 13 September 2012.

1.2 Amatole System Administrative and Technical Support Group (ASATSG) Meetings

ASATSG meetings were held on:

- 2 November 2011 (at the offices of Amatola Water); and
- 1 March 2012 (at the offices of UWP Consulting).

Following these meetings, the following have been undertaken:

- Minutes of the meetings have been prepared and circulated;
- A request to consider changes proposed to the System operating rules have been issued to DWA:HO, following the outcomes of the WRYM analysis;
- Request to calibrate the Abbotsford gauging station has been issued to DWA: Cradock;
- A request to finalise the EWRs has been issued to DWA: RO; and
- Position papers on BCMM's proposed water re-use initiatives at the Mdantsane WWTW, as well as the proposed exchange of treated effluent from the Mdantsane WWTW for a portion of the agricultural allocation from Laing Dam, have been prepared.

The next ASATSG meeting is scheduled for 16 May 2012.

2. REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STRATEGY

2.1 General

Following the outputs of / instructions received from the ASSSC meetings of 11 October 2011 and 27 March 2012, the following have been / are being undertaken:

- ASSSC meeting of 11 October 2011:
 - Inputs for the BCMM WC/WDM Strategy were received, compiled and forwarded to BCMM who have since finalised their strategy document and submitted it to their council for approval;
 - Inputs for the BCMM Water Re-Use Strategy are ongoing;
 - The report on the WRPM has been finalised and circulated; and
 - A screening of Surface Water Supply Options Workshop has been conducted.

- ASSSC meeting of 27 March 2012:
 - Preparation for workshop to facilitate regional integration / alignment of water resources and water services infrastructure planning is ongoing.

2.2 Screening of Surface Water Supply Scheme Options Workshop

A workshop was held with key stakeholders and invited guests at the East London Golf Course on 26 March 2012.

The following were circulated in advance of the workshop:

- Agenda
- Starter document, highlighting / containing the following:
 - purpose of the workshop;
 - objectives of the workshop;
 - screening process, criteria and ranking of schemes;
 - anticipated outcomes and way forward;
 - description of each scheme (mapping and text, as well as updated scheme costing);
- Write-up of Environmental Issues of each scheme as determined by a focus group of environmental specialists, facilitated by the ASATSG.

During the workshop process, three schemes were shortlisted for more in-depth study, whilst others were identified to be acceptable pending further clarity on certain aspects.

A workshop report will now be prepared, following which a decision will be made at the next ASSSC meeting as to when and at what level the studies will be undertaken.

2.3 BCMM Water Re-Use Strategy

Following a review of BCMM's first draft Water Re-Use Strategy report, it was felt that further input was required from the ASATSG to ensure better alignment between the Amatole Reconciliation Strategy and the BCMM Re-Use Strategy and to avoid any potential conflict between the respective strategies.

Inputs in this regard are ongoing and will be finalised by the next reporting period.

2.4 Regional Planning Workshop

In order to facilitate better alignment between water resource and water services infrastructure planning at a regional level, it was agreed that a workshop be held with key stakeholders in East London on 13 June 2012. Planning for this workshop is ongoing.