

Woodland Farms Partnership

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Dear Donavan

I thank you for the opportunity to put on paper some of my thoughts and concerns about the Foxwood Dam Project.

Firstly, I would like to re-iterate that, although the dam will have some major negatives for us personally, we are very pro this project as it obviously is going to be very good for the community as a whole. With that in mind, we have done our utmost thus far, to be as accommodating as possible to all the parties concerned in the feasibility and EIA studies.

My concerns are as follows-

1. **Land Issues.** The area that will be affected by the dam both during construction and what will be under water, is mostly land owned by us i.e. Woodland Farms Partnership. What is the full extent of the area that will be affected before, during and after construction? What will be expropriation/ compensation procedures? It must be noted that loss of use of the land both before and after will impact negatively on our profitability as a farming venture. I know that the plan is to expropriate all /most of the irrigable land downstream of the dam to enable emerging farmers to farm. I would like it to be noted that if more downstream land is expropriated from us as well, this would not only be unfair, but basically render our operation unviable.
2. **Water Rights.** Who will have water rights? Who will be the water management board and how will they be elected. How much water will the parties be allowed and how will the cost be calculated?
3. **Dam access/usage for recreational/tourism purposes.** Who will manage this aspect of the dam and how will it be enforced? What will be the public access? A large part of the eastern dam frontage will be on our land. Will we be allowed access for boating, fishing etc.? Would we be allowed to develop a tourism facility if we wanted to in the future? Who will be wielding the power to make those decisions?
4. **Flora and Fauna.** This is as much a suggestion as a concern. As you know the area that will be affected by the dam is the Valley Bushveld biome with lots of spekboom, aloes and many other highly adapted succulents, bushes and trees. I feel that there is a real job creation possibility here if a nursery could be developed, not only to hold the plant rescue operation but also for plant propagation so that this could be a long term viable business. There is already a lot of local expertise in plant rescue in the area with experience acquired during the wind farm projects. I would like the opportunity to become involved in this as I do think that properly done it could provide a good number of permanent jobs.
5. **Weir.** There is an existing, very beautiful historical old stone weir across the river. It was built in 1901 and has amazingly survived countless floods intact. [I have the full history if you need it] Are there any plans to relocate this or salvage the dressed stone? The furrows

leading from it were damaged in the last big flood we had but we are in the process of repairing them. Will there be compensation for this structure?

You intimated that you would disseminate this letter to the appropriate people and have them or yourself revert back to me on these issues. Once again I thank you for your time and take this opportunity to apologise that I am unable to attend the meeting on the 24th March.

Regards Anne Knox