



Directorate: National Water Resource Planning

**KWAZULU-NATAL COASTAL METROPOLITAN AREA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**

**Decision Framework for Augmentation Options**

**Discussion workshop: Meeting notes**

**Wednesday, 14 March 2012, Durban Jewish Club**

		Notes / Actions
1.	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS</b>  Mr Niel van Wyk (Department of Water Affairs – DWA) chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the discussion workshop. He stated that the reason for the discussion workshop was at the request Mr Bill Pfaff of eThekweni Metro.	
2.	<b>ATTENDEES</b> Niel van Wyk Solly Mabuda Peter van Niekerk Johan van Rooyen Kobus Bester Tony Moore Zimkitha Peteni-Kave Bill Pfaff Peter Ramsden Trevor Coleman Priya Moodley Colin Talanda Pieter van Rooyen Andre Joubert	
3.	Mr Pfaff said the main reason he asked for this discussion was to request guidance on the dilemma eThekweni Metro is going to face in September / October this year, with regard to whether the Metro goes ahead with the water re-use project or not. Guidance is required with what to consider as part of the decision making framework.  Mr Pfaff stated that the Metro has to go out on tender in January 2013 and the final decision to go ahead must be taken a few months before then due to a lot of administrative and technical issues that have to be resolved before the tender process	

is announced. eThekweni is looking at a Public Private Partnership (PPP) for the water re-use facility.

It will be unfair to all parties involved to go ahead with the tender process, get many companies submitting proposals at great expense and then cancelling water re-use project altogether.

Mr Pfaff stated that we need to ask whether it makes economic sense to go ahead with water re-use.

We must weigh water re-use up against other options such as:

- Water conservation / water demand management (WC/WDM);
- Desalinisation of seawater;
- Mkomazi River Transfer Scheme;
- The 'do nothing' option; or
- A combination of all of the above.

Mr Van Wyk said there are other risks to consider as well, such as public perception.

Mr Ramsden said there are also risks for PPP such as timeframes and labour union demands.

Mr Johan van Rooyen said we must look at the costs of the 'do nothing' option. This could include water restrictions and what would the costs be to the economy of these restrictions. We must individually study all of the other options.

Mr Ramsden said there is also a cost involved in accelerating the Mkomazi Scheme. He added that the 'do nothing' option can also be managed by promoting WC/WDM.

Mr Pfaff said if all efforts are concentrated on the Mkomazi Scheme, then water re-use is not really needed.

Mr Johan van Rooyen said the Mkomazi Scheme for example is still too far away in the distance and will only be operational in 2023 if we are lucky. Mr Bester said this scheme will be implemented in a phased approach.

Mr Johan van Rooyen stated that desalinisation can be seen as the biggest opposition to water re-use.

Mr Mabuda agreed and said desalinisation is becoming to look attractive.

Mr Ramsden said a big advantage of desalination is that the potable water is available instantaneously and the other options will all take a long time to be implemented.

Mr Ramsden said a big drawback of both water re-use and desalination is that both need energy. Mr Pfaff added that of the two options, water re-use needs less energy.

Mr Pfaff said the two desalination plants (one north and one south of Durban) are being investigated. Available land is a problem.

Mr Johan van Rooyen said options such as water re-use and desalination with high assurance levels of water must be weighted when comparing with projects with low assurance levels such as surface water options.

Mr Pieter van Rooyen said following the correct process is very important and Mr Van Wyk added that he does not like 'weighting' and would also prefer the correct process being followed.

Mr Van Wyk said pumping extra funding into the WC/WDM option could work, but it must be tightly managed and a sustainable approach must be followed.

Mr Coleman said it will be possible to work out how much money can be saved by concentrating on the WC/WDM option.

Mr Pfaff said he will also calculate what water savings can be made by investing R100 million in WC/WDM.

Mr Ramsden said the study area needs additional water resources until 2023 when the Mkomazi Scheme becomes operational.

Mr Bester said the timeframes for the Mkomazi Scheme is out of the DWA's hands, because the environmental authorities must first approve the environmental impact assessment which could take a long time.

Mr Pieter van Rooyen added that the Mkomazi River is one of two (with the Umzimkulu River being the other) unconstrained rivers in the country and there will be resistance to the Mkomazi Scheme from the environmental sector.

Mr Van Wyk added that there is an environmental risk with all the options.

Mr Pfaff asked if timeframes can be added as an extra column to the factors that must be considered in the decision making process.

Mr Bester said the dates can then be shuffled to look at various scenarios.

Mr Van Wyk asked that:

- A matrix with all factors to be considered must be drawn up;
- More information on WC/WDM must be added;
- The dates to be added must be as reliable as possible;
- The operational date of the Mkomzi Scheme must be refined.

Mr Van Wyk asked that Messrs Coleman, Pieter van Rooyen and Ramsden come up with a plan/product which will be used as a decision support tool to assist with the decision to go ahead with water re-use or not..