



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate: National Water Resource Planning

Development of a Reconciliation Strategy for the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System

STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE – MEETING 1

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, 23 November 2011
TIME: 10:00 – 13:45
VENUE: Tzaneen Country Lodge, Tzaneen

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	ACTION
	<p>The Chairperson and Study Manager, Mr Tendani Nditwani (Department of Water Affairs – DWA) welcomed all to the first meeting of the Study Steering Committee (SSC) for the development of the Luvuvhu and Letaba Water Supply System Reconciliation Strategy (LLRS).</p> <p>Mr Nditwani said the objectives of this meeting are to introduce the study and open up a communication channel with key stakeholders. (See attached presentation for more information).</p>	
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	
	<p>Mr Nditwani asked all present to briefly introduce themselves to the rest of the members.</p> <p>The attendance register can be found at the back of this document.</p> <p>The following apologies were received:</p> <p>Mr Solly Mabuda, DWA Mr Johan van Rooyen, DWA Mr Paul Herbst, DWA Ms Ndileka Mohapi, DWA Ms Smangele Mgquba, DWA Mr Ockie van den Berg, DWA Ms Shane Naidoo, DWA Ms Tovho Nyamande, DWA Ms Barbara Weston, DWA Ms Nancy Motebe, DWA Mr Alson Matukane, DWA Ms Lucy Kobe, DWA Ms Doris Maumela, DWA Mr Kgauta Mokoena, Department of Mineral Resources Ms Ethel Sinthumule, Department of Mineral Resources</p>	

	Mr Norman Mariba, Limpopo Department of Local Government and Housing Mr Pieter de Witt, Limpopo Department of Agriculture Dr Thomas Gyedu-Ababio, SA Parks Board Dr Freek Venter, SA Parks Board Mr Dries Enslin, Agri Limpopo and Agri Letaba Ms Wilma Prinsloo, Transvaal Agricultural Union Mr Wandile Nomqophu, Water Research Commission Mr Louis van Zyl, Northern Timbers.	
3.	ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA	
	The agenda was accepted with minor changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to raise questions for clarity was added after each presentation; and • “Questions for clarity” was changed to “Discussion”. 	
4.	WHY IS THE DWA DEVELOPING RECONCILIATION STRATEGIES FOR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA?	
a	Mr Nditwani started his presentation with the DWA’s mission statement: “A country that uses water productively and in a sustainable manner for social and economic activities; in a manner that promotes growth, development and prosperity of all people to achieve social justice and equity.” The Water Resource Planning Process was explained and the sources of information on the study area were discussed. The attached presentation provides more information. These sources of information were the forerunners of Catchment Management Strategies which identified the need for more detailed studies such as Reconciliation Strategy Studies.	
5	OVERVIEW OF THE LUVUVHU AND LETABA SYSTEM	
a	Mr Nditwani also presented an overview of the study area which is one of the driest regions in the country. It has about 1.8 million people of which over 80% can be described as rural. See the attached presentation for the key characteristics of the study area.	
b	Mr Louis van Rooyen (Groot Letaba Water User Association) asked if the 5 million m ³ /a transfer from the Nandoni Dam to users in the stressed Middle Letaba River System is used for primary consumption. Mr Nditwani confirmed that he is correct and said the Middle Letaba System needs much more water than is currently available.	
c	Mr Isaac Nyatlo (DWA) asked why only three development centres (Thohoyandou, Giyani and Tzaneen) were included for the purposes of this study. What about the rest of the study area. Mr Nditwani said major developments are taking place in these three towns as well as developments in other towns all over the study area which will not be ignored. Development takes place not just in the mining and industrial sectors. The municipalities in the study area must come forward and become part of this study.	Municipalities
d	Mr Nyatlo asked if farm dams will be included in this study. Mr Nditwani confirmed that farm dams will be included in the study, because farm dams have impacts on the water availability.	

e	<p>Mr Nyatlo proposed that the project team look at the possibility of connecting the Klein Letaba River System with the under-performing Middle Letaba Dam in order to increase its yield.</p> <p>Mr Nditwani confirmed that the study will investigate this possibility.</p>	Project Team
f	Mr Louis van Rooyen said the DWA's process to register all water users has not yet been finalised in this catchment.	
g	<p>Mr Louis van Rooyen proposed that the Limpopo River should also form part of this study and augmentation from the Limpopo should be investigated.</p> <p>Mr Nditwani said the Limpopo River is jointly managed by South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique through a body called LIMCOM. A Scoping Study on the entire Limpopo Basin was already completed by LIMCOM. A comprehensive study on the Limpopo Basin to be undertaken through LIMCOM will start in 2012 that will include all four basin states.</p>	
h	Mr Zakes Masilana (DWA) suggested this study should also look at new dam sites in the Letaba System.	Project Team
6	APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LUVUVHU AND LETABA RECONCILIATION STRATEGY	
a	<p>Mr Pieter van Rooyen (Study Leader of the Project Team) discussed the approach to be followed in developing the LLRS. The main milestones for the LLRS will be the Preliminary Screening Workshop in April 2012; a Preliminary Reconciliation Strategy in April 2013; the Final Screening Workshop in February 2014 and the Final Reconciliation Strategy in June 2014. See the attached presentation for more information.</p> <p>A practical strategy is only possible if it is based on reliable data and information. The sharing of information, data and planning is vital. The legitimate water needs for public and commercial development projects must be built into scenarios and the strategy.</p> <p>The project team will appreciate any contribution from SSC members to make the strategy a success.</p>	
b	Mr Nditwani explained that the Preliminary Reconciliation Strategy which will be available in April 2013 will give an indication of what the final product will look like.	
c	<p>Ms Ledile Mashilwane (Office of the Limpopo Premier) asked if the study will look at the growth points in Limpopo.</p> <p>Ms Hanli du Plessis (Office of the Limpopo Premier) added that these growth points (26 places in Limpopo are classified as growth points) fall under the Limpopo Employment Growth and Development Plan (LEGDP).</p> <p>Mr Nditwani said this document will be studied by the project team. The DWA does, however, always participate when provincial growth points are identified, because the DWA must first investigate if sufficient water is available for future development.</p>	Project Team
d	<p>Mr Hannes Enslin (Northern Timbers) asked if Forestry and Agriculture are being treated at the same level as other industries.</p> <p>Mr Nditwani responded that the Groot Letaba River Water Development Project consisting of the building of the Nwamitwa Dam, the raising of the Tzaneen Dam and building a potable water supply system is in the planning stage moving towards implementation. The aims of this project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water supplies to communities in the southern part of the Mopani District (which includes Tzaneen); • Improve the water availability for the ecological system in the Groot Letaba River; • Enable the establishment of resource poor farmers; and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stabilise commercial irrigation. <p>Mr Nditwani said the DWA hopes that this study will provide more information in order for the DWA to take informed decisions regarding water resource planning.</p> <p>Mr Pieter van Rooyen said planning information from the Limpopo province will be captured in the models and scenarios will be built around them to investigate all options available for future growth.</p> <p>Mr Bernie Badenhorst (DWA) said the Limpopo Department of Agriculture is investigating ways of finding water for resource poor farmers but not for commercial farmers. He urged the commercial farmers to contact Pieter de Witt at the Department of Agriculture and to get involved with the Department of Agriculture.</p>	
e	<p>Ms Welly Serogole (Office of the Limpopo Premier) asked if the water supply backlog will be addressed by this study.</p> <p>Mr Pieter van Rooyen explained that this study does not service the backlog or draw up practical solutions to end the backlog. The study will, however, factor the backlog into its calculations and add the water requirements of the backlog.</p> <p>Mr Solly Manyaka (Project Team) added that this study is a strategic initiative on a high level that does not cater for local practical solutions at this stage.</p>	
7	FUNCTIONS OF THE STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE	
	<p>Mr André Joubert (Project Team) gave a brief overview of what is expected of the SSC members. He discussed the objectives of the SSC, the roles and responsibilities of SSC members as well as some practical arrangements. All the relevant information can be found in the Terms of Reference for SSC members that will again be sent to all members as well as the attached presentation.</p>	
8	ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LUVUVHU AND LETABA STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE	
	<p>Mr Manyaka asked the meeting to nominate additional organisations or people who should be part of this SSC. Various suggestions were made and it was decided to send the draft list of members to all, together with the draft minutes so that suggestions and additions can be made.</p> <p>The following changes and additions to this SSC were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate agriculture and forestry on the list; Reduce the number of DWA head office officials; Reduce the number of DWA Limpopo officials; Add the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform; Add the Chamber of Mines; Add individual mines in the catchment; Add Catchment Forums; and Add more representatives from the Luvuvhu Water Supply System. 	
9	GENERAL	
	No points were added under General.	

10	WAY FORWARD	
	<p>Mr Nditwani highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list for the SSC needs to be finalised. • The preliminary screening workshop for all SSC members that will take place on 25 April 2012. A summary of possible options and schemes for reconciliation that resulted from the literature review will be presented and water resource management issues and concerns will be identified. Schemes and options will be selected and prioritised for evaluation in the study. • Communication will be an on-going activity to disseminate information on the LLRS. It will be the responsibility of SSC members to inform their organisations and inform their top management. A website will be set up and all relevant and updated information will be available on this site. DWA officials can be invited to make presentations on the LLRS. <p>Cooperation is essential to develop a coherent Reconciliation Strategy.</p>	
11	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The next SSC meeting will be on Wednesday, 25 April 2012.	
12	CLOSURE	
	Mr Nditwani thanked all members for attending the meeting.	

Attendance Register – 23 November 2011

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