

water affairs Department: Water Affairs REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## CHIEF DIRECTORATE: INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

## DIRECTORATE: NATIONAL WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

## DEVELOPMENT OF A RECONCILIATION STRATEGY FOR THE OLIFANTS RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (ORS)

# MINUTES OF THE FIRST STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC)

Date: 5 May 2010

Venue: Forever Resorts Loskop Dam

Time: 09: 30 – 13:15

		Actio
1.	Opening and Welcome	
	Mr. Nditwani, Chief Water Resource Planner: National Water Resource Planning (NWRP) North: Department of Water Affairs (DWA) welcomed attendees to the inaugural Study Steering Committee (SSC) meeting for the Development of a Reconciliation Strategy for the Olifants River Water Supply System Study (ORS). He thanked them for their attendance and said key stakeholders have been invited to participate in the study and that the Department values their contributions.	
	In his introductory remarks, Mr. Nditwani emphasised the importance of the Olifants River system for the region in terms of social, economic, environmental and tourism activities. He also emphasised the need for collaboration amongst stakeholders to manage the resources.	
	<ul><li>He stated the objectives of the meeting, namely:</li><li>To convene the SSC;</li></ul>	
	<ul> <li>To confirm the roles and functions of the SSC</li> </ul>	
	To explain what this study is about;	
	<ul> <li>To explain what is expected from the committee;</li> </ul>	
	• To provide the committee an understanding of the problems in- and the possible solutions for the study area;	
	<ul> <li>To outline the programme for the study and decide on future meetings;</li> <li>To open communication channels; and</li> </ul>	
	• To strengthen partnerships between DWA and the key stakeholders.	
2. 2.1	Attendance Present	
	All participants were asked to introduce themselves.	
	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from a number of nominated members. The attendance register is attached as Appendix 1.	

		Action
3.	Approval of agenda	
	The agenda was accepted without change.	
4.	<ul> <li>Overview of the Olifants Water Supply System Reconciliation Strategy Study</li> <li>Mr. Nditwani presented an overview of the study, the study area location, a comparison of current and future water demands and water availability in the catchment, indicating the level of stress. The stress is a result of the rapidly growing water requirements. He highlighted the urgent need to identify and confirm interventions required to meet the imminent potential shortfalls in supply, to set in place a strategy for selecting and prioritizing such interventions, and to determine the actions that will be necessary to ensure their timely implementation. This should reconcile the supply with a range of longer term water requirement scenarios for the future. The Reconciliation strategy interventions will include demand and supply options. He indicated that it should be seen as an ongoing process that must be maintained and updated over time and must lead to implementation of interventions as is required.</li> <li>He explained the functioning of the SSC in terms of membership, roles and responsibilities, proposed terms of reference; SSC arrangements; and preliminary meeting dates and process.</li> <li>Metsweding Municipality is to be incorporated into Tshwane Municipality and by March 2011 it will not exist anymore.</li> <li>Mr. van Rooyen stressed that this project is not about developing a Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) as required from a Catchment Management Agency (CMA). This is a more focused study aimed at</li> </ul>	
	ensuring that there is enough water of the required quality at the required place and time currently and into the future.	
5.	Status of the Study Area	
5.1	<b>Introduction</b> Mr. Beumer presented a description and characteristics of the study area. He said that the catchment has an area of 54 570 km <sup>2</sup> , overlaps with three Provinces, the Kruger National Park (KNP) and eight District Municipalities. It has a population of approximately three million people and its economic activities generate about 5 % of South Africa's Gross Domestic Product.	
	The economic sectors, according to the Department's Internal Strategic Perspective Report, include mining (22 %), manufacturing (18 %), electricity generation (16 %), government (16 %) and agriculture (7 %), with eight ESKOM power stations in the study area. Water quality problems resulting from industries, mining, irrigation and effluent from municipalities is a challenge in the catchment. Mining operations put pressure on the system in terms of requirements and effluent. There are vast rural areas that require services.	
	Sustaining the current water use for irrigation, implementing the ecological water requirement and the potential impact of the eradication of alien species need to be taken into account when considering the strategy.	

<ul> <li>Mr. Beumer reiterated that this is a complicated study area with many types of water use. The study area is stressed in terms of water use and quality and has a high profile in terms of media exposure. There are international obligations to be met and several inter-catchment obligations. The area has significant economic opportunities including mining, agriculture and tourism, and it will be a challenge to find the balance between social, economic development and environmental protection.</li> <li>Questions and Discussions from the audience: <ul> <li>Q: Is new power station under construction included in the figures?</li> <li>A: <i>Mr. Beumer replied that it is</i>.</li> <li>The De Hoop Dam and future transfers to Polokwane were emphasized.</li> <li>Q: Has the Ecological Water Requirement (EWR) been determined yet?</li> <li>A: <i>Mr. Beumer replied that the EWR was determined some 10 years ago</i>. The Reserve has not been implemented and the flow has not been monitored. The information will be updated as part of this study and an implementation strategy will be recommended. <i>Mr.</i> van Rooyen addet that the proposed Classification System will also be considered in terms of Classes for the study area and the impact on future requirements.</li> <li>Q: Is water supply to rural areas piped water o direct access?</li> <li>A: <i>Mr. Beumer replied that the detailed figures are not yet available, but it will be part of the study?</i> to determine which areas can be supplied locally with groundwater and to which areas water supply need to be piped with surface water. <i>Mr. Nditwani emphasized the link of this study to the All Towns Study that is focusing n all organized settlements.</i></li> <li>Q: Please provide clarity on the CSIR study and implementation of the water quality study has been undertaken by the DWA for the Upper and Middle Olifants (Integrated Water Resource Management Plan For The Upper And Middle Olifants). This study's results and recommended in the flateges involved in terms of the timing of the related studie</li></ul></li></ul>		Action
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	<ul> <li>A: Ms. Baker and Mr. van Rooyen replied that this study will not compile detailed water quality management plans but will address issues related to supply of water at an acceptable quality, for intended use. Only raw water will be addressed because, treated piped water is part of the water services responsibility which is the responsibility of Local Government.</li> <li>The point was made that the crux of water related issues is, in the quality, and there should be a focus on water quality, otherwise the water provided will not be usable.</li> <li>The various responsibilities of the CMA and other studies being undertaken, in relation to this study were discussed.</li> <li>Mr. van Rooyen suggested that a presentation on the water quality findings and recommendations from the recently completed study for the Upper and Middle catchments be made at the next SSC meeting. It was also requested that the agenda for future SSC meetings includes a report back on other current water quality studies in the study area.</li> </ul>	
	• Q: Mr. van Niekerk commented that if a shared solution is to be recommended a shared vision for the catchment will be required. Will this be included in the study?	TN
	• A: Mr. Nditwani replied that the CMA will eventually set the vision, but it will be taken into account in this study.	TN
5.2	<ul> <li>Water Availability and Requirements</li> <li>Mr. Mallory presented the water availability, requirements and a reconciliation of water availability and requirements as published in the NWRS (2000) and how this has changed overtime based on recent studies.</li> <li>Questions and Discussions from the Audience: <ul> <li>Q: Are transfers included in the figures.</li> <li>A: Mr. Mallory replied that the imports, mostly for power generation, are excluded from the figures. It was decided that these should be included in future.</li> <li>Mr. Nditwani explained how the models will be used as decision support tools in the study.</li> <li>Q: What are the water use figures based on?</li> <li>A: Mr. Mallory explained that the figures are based on the verification and validation figures. The municipal water use is from actual water use. The rural sector's figures come from DWA: Water Services branch. Mr. van Rooyen pointed out that for rural water supply where there is no formal supply the water use is generally very small and where there is formal supply municipalities have the figures.</li> <li>Q: How are new water use license applications being dealt with?</li> <li>A: Mr van Rooyen explained that at the moment DWA may not issue any new licenses. The purpose of this study is to make plans to satisfy more water users in the catchment and redress past imbalances.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	SM
5.3	<ul> <li>Resource protection</li> <li>Ms Baker presented the current water quality in the catchment.</li> <li>Questions and Discussions from the Audience:</li> <li>Q: Will this study assess the success of the controlled release programme in the Upper catchment?</li> <li>A: Mr. van Rooyen replied that the Upper and Middle Water Quality Study found that the controlled release plan is not sufficient and that mines will have to treat</li> </ul>	

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	their water to acceptable standards in future.	
5.4	Possible Intervention Options Mr. Timm presented the types of interventions, namely structural and management interventions, and specifically Development of ground water, Construction of dams, Water transfers from neighboring catchments, Rainfall harvesting, Desalination of sea water, Water Conservation and Demand Management, Adjusting assurance of supply, Alien plant eradication, Rainfall enhancement, Optimising operating rules, Compulsory Licensing, Water Trading, and Virtual water	
	<ul> <li>Trading, and Virtual water.</li> <li>Questions and Discussions from the audience:</li> <li>The statement was made during the presentation that farmers must accept that there will not be more water allocated for agriculture. There was resentment from the farming community which pointed out that they believed that the starting point for this study should be what quantity of water must be set aside for food security. Without food security there will not be enough food to support development in other sectors. It was suggested that the priority list should be first drinking water, secondly survival of the environment, thirdly food security and then the remaining uses according to priorities. The stopping of illegal agriculture could have a significant impact on food security in South Africa, and should be considered with caution.</li> <li>Mr. van Niekerk commented that there is a perspective that we should grow all our own food in our country. Not everybody agrees with this perspective there is also the concept of comparative advantage, were food can be grown were its cheaper within the region and RSA can save the water for use in higher income sectors. Mr. van Rooyen agreed that food security is very important, but that debate should take place at the national planning commission, and not in this study. Studies like this can provide input to that</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li><i>discussion.</i></li> <li>It was also suggested that water conservation be strongly investigated since it has been observed that there are still high conveyance losses between the dam wall and the farmer's field.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>The Masingir Dam was suggested as a possible future source and that negotiations with Moçambique could be initiated. <i>Mr. Nditwani assured members that this will be considered.</i></li> <li>Mr van Niekerk reminded the audience that this study looks into the future and that issues of the future may be different from the critical issues today for example there may be more water from mines and power stations that will have shut down. He said that the value of water will increase and that the allocation of water in the catchment may change.</li> <li>Mr. van Rooyen said that a consideration of different scenarios for the future will be used to assess possibilities.</li> </ul>	
6.	<ul> <li>The question was asked if return flows are taken into account in the water balance. The answer to this is yes. Maximizing the quality and optimizing the use of return flows will be an objective.</li> <li>Mr. Roussouw (Lebalelo Water Board) referred to the 1983 study on requirements in the KNP and made the point that that study has affected the figures that are on the table today.</li> <li>General Discussion</li> </ul>	
	Mr Nditwani summarized the presentations made in the meeting and encouraged further discussion. Q: Will this study affect the verification of water rights?	

		Action
	<ul> <li>A: Mr. Nditwani explained that validation confirms what is currently being used. Verification then assesses if the use is legal. The validation process has commenced. Compulsory Licensing will follow. Mr. van Rooyen reported that in the Vaal River system a certain quantity of water upstream of the Vaal Dam was always used, however; the validation process indicated a huge increase upstream of the Vaal Dam. DWA has requested verification as it is of the opinion that some of the irrigation in the Upper Vaal is illegal, and it has initiated a process to address this. The same process will be followed in this catchment.</li> <li>The comment was made that Verification should be complete before the</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Mr. van Rooyen agreed that this would be the ideal but mentioned that this study cannot wait for all information to be 100 % exact before starting with the process. The results may be adapted as future input becomes available. Eradicating illegal use may be one of the scenarios considered.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Q: Once the strategy has been formulated and accepted, who will run it?</li> <li>A: Mr van Rooyen indicated that one of the aims of this study is to make people aware that it is not only for the DWA to make sure that water is used efficiently and responsibly. There are a number of institutions that are involved. The DWA is facilitating the process. The Regulations are also there to enforce the correct actions.</li> <li>It was suggested that a list of known ongoing studies be compiled and circulated to the key stakeholders so that they can inform the team of any other studies being undertaken. Mr Nditwani referred to the Literature Review Task of the project as a deliverable.</li> </ul>	JB
7.	<b>Study Outline and Programme</b> Mr Beumer presented the study approach, tasks to be undertaken, deliverables to be produced, study hierarchy, PSP Team, and work schedule.	
8.	<b>Future Meetings</b> Ms. Cornelia Masogo of the Study Team indicated that a schedule of meetings will be sent to committee members. The next meeting will be the Preliminary Screening Workshop. Mr. Nditwani suggested 7 July 2010, which was accepted by the meeting. As soon as venue and logistics are finalised the Committee will be informed.	СМ СМ
9.	<ul> <li>Membership, dates and arrangements of the SSC</li> <li>Mr. Nditwani presented the current membership of the SSC and asked the meeting whether any additional organizations should be invited to participate at this level.</li> <li>The following suggestions were made: <ul> <li>Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing;</li> <li>Additional representatives of the tourism sector, e.g. at national government level;</li> <li>COPSA; and</li> <li>SALGA at provincial level.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The next SSC meeting after the Preliminary Screening Workshop will be held on 24 November 2010. All Meetings will be in the study area.</li> </ul>	All
	The meeting agreed to DWA as chairperson.	

		Action
10.	<b>Closure</b> Mr. Nditwani thanked all participants for their attendance and contributions to the meeting and invited them to partake in lunch.	
	The meeting was adjourned at 13:25.	

Distribution: All Attendees All Apologies

Minutes confirmed as a true record of the meeting

DWA : T NDITWANI : STUDY MANAGER

DATE

## **APPENDIX 1**

#### DEVELOPMENT OF A RECONCILIATION STRATEGY FOR THE OLIFANTS RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING : 5 MAY 2010 FOREVER RESORTS : LOSKOP DAM ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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