

DEVELOPMENT OF A RECONCILIATION STRATEGY FOR THE OLIFANTS RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Work done up to 27 July 2011 with special focus on the work done during July 2011

PHASE 1:

Study Planning and Process Initiation

The initial planning and process initiation is complete and the Inception report was approved and signed off.

Further planning was done after DWA requested work that was out of scope. An application for a variation order was not approved and priorities had to be reshuffled. A letter had been drafted specifying the changes in scope and was submitted to DWA.

PHASE 2:

Task 1: Summary of Current and Previous studies

Completed. Report has been signed off.

Task 2 : Preliminary Screening Workshop and Reconnaissance Study Tour

Completed. Report has been signed off.

Task 3: Current and Future Water Requirements and Return Flows

The yield assessment of De Hoop and Flag Boshielo Dams is complete and the report has been signed off. Mr HBH Rossouw of Lebalelo Water Users Association (LWUA) submitted comments and a discussion between Messrs Rossouw, Mallory, Van Den Berg, Nditwani, Koorse (Olifants JRF) and Ms S Van Jaarsveld and Ms Wepener was held on 18 July 2011. A reply to LWUA has been drafted on behalf of DWA.

The Water Requirements and Water Availability Report has been completed and sent to the SMT members for comments. Comments were due by 24 June 2011. A meeting with DWA officials was held on 5 July 2011 and verbal comments have been given. The water requirements of Polokwane and Mokopane as obtained from the All Towns' Study report are suspect and the PSP was requested to also look at other literature / data sources and update the requirements for these two towns. The report has to be updated and finalised.

Task 4: Water Conservation and Demand Management

The report is complete and a few peer reviews have been done. The internal comments are being addressed and the report will soon be ready to be distributed to the SMT members for further comments.

Task 5: Opportunities for Water Re-Use

A first draft report has been completed and peer reviewed. Submission to the client had to be postponed owing to the unavailability of the author to finalise the report. A new date has been set for middle August 2011.

Task 6: Invasive Alien Plants

This task is complete and the report has been sent to all SMT members as well as the Working for Water committee staff for comments. Valuable comments have been received which will be incorporated. The report has been sent to the client for sign-off.

Task 8: Water Quality

The draft report has been peer reviewed and internal comments have been incorporated. The report has recently been sent to the SMT members for comments. Due date for comments is 31 August 2011.

Task 9: Reserve Requirement Scenarios and Scheme Yields

A report on the Assessment of the Ecoclassification has been completed and submitted to the SMT members for comments. A report on the Reserve Scenarios which will be completed soon is also being drafted.

Task 10: Groundwater

The Groundwater Report is complete. It has been peer reviewed and has been sent to the SMT members for comments. Due date for comments is 29 July 2011.

At the meeting between DWA and the PSP on 5 July 2011 there was a request to elaborate on the Groundwater report and to indicate what borehole yields can be found where. Subsequently a hydrogeological map of the WMA has been prepared from the four 1:500 000 hydrogeological maps of Johannesburg, Polokwane, Phalaborwa and Nelspruit. This map as well as a short description has been added to the report.

Task 11: Review Schemes and Update Cost Estimates

The report on possible scheme options and their cost estimates is in progress. Design and costing is complete and the report is at least 80% complete.

Task 12 : Review or Assess Social and Environmental Impacts

This task will be scaled down to a desk-top study only. The work has started but can only be finished once the report on the Review of Schemes and the Updating of Cost Estimates is in an advanced stage.

Task 13 : Assembly of Information and Formulation of Scenarios

Report on the Preliminary Reconciliation Strategy has been signed-off. The structure for the Final Reconciliation Strategy has been sent to the authors and they are now working full steam on this strategy. The first draft is expected to be complete by the middle September 2011.

Task 14: Final Screening Workshop

This workshop will be arranged once the first draft of the Final Reconciliation Strategy has undergone a round of comments from the SMT members.

Task 15: Public Participation

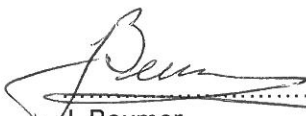
The public participation task had to be scaled down substantially as a result of the additional work that had to be done. The remaining deliverables are:

- 3 x Newsletters
- 4 x Presentations at existing forums / meetings

The second newsletter is complete and is in the process of being edited. One of the four presentations has already been done during the meeting of the Technical Task Team of the ORWRDP Stakeholder Forum. The remaining three need to be planned.

Task 16: Project Management

- The Agenda for the SMT meeting on 27 July 2011 and other preparations for this meeting have been done.
- The letter on the changes in scope has been prepared.
- The invoice for June 2011 has been prepared.
- This progress report has been prepared.
- The minutes of the SSC meeting have been finalised.


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22-07-2011
Date