



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



RICHARDS BAY RECONCILIATION STRATEGY: MEETING 3

Minutes of the Study Stakeholder Meeting held on 13 August 2014 @ 10h30 at the offices of Mhlathuze Water in Richards Bay

Item		Action
1.	WELCOME Mr Niel van Wyk welcomed the attendees to the fourth meeting of the Richards Bay Reconciliation Strategy Study.	
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	
2.1	Attendance Niel van Wyk DWS: NWRP (East) NvW Zimkitha Peteni Kave DWS: NWRP (East) ZPK Salona Moodley DWS: Options Analysis SM Sakhile Mndaweni DWS: WRPS SW Samke Mabaso DWS: WUE SA Khumbu Moyo DWS: WUE KM Norman Ward DWS: CE: KZN Region NW Gibson Gumede DWS: Sc. Water Regulation and Use GG Sizwe Madlala DWS: Water Regulation SD Thinus Potgieter Mhlathuze Water TP Sabelo Hlela City of uMhlathuze SH Mlungisi Mgabi uThungulu DM MM Michelle Boshoff RBM MB Nelisa Dladla RBM ND Nadia Rowling Mondl RB NR Ezra Mlambo Foskor EM Shaloshini Naidoo BHP Billiton SN Gerry Barry Tongaat Hulett GB Erik van der Berg Aurecon EvdB Ceridwen Salisbury Aurecon CS	
2.2	Apologies Zama Zuma Mhlathuze Water ZZ Angela Masefield DWA RO AM Sagraan Govindasamy Tongaat Hulett Sugar SG	
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 4.1. a The Inception Report has been finalised.	

Item		Action
	<p>4.2 A draft Water Requirements Report has been prepared and will be finalised within the next month.</p> <p>4.8. Aurecon reported that a presentation on the reconciliation strategy was made to the Mhlathuze Catchment Management Forum on the 21st May as part of the stakeholder engagement process.</p> <p>6. A list of dates that indicate meeting dates and major study milestones will be distributed.</p>	<p>EvdB/ CS</p> <p>CS</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2.</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.3.1</p>	<p>DISCUSSION ON STUDY TASKS AND RELEVANT ISSUES</p> <p>Water Requirements</p> <p>The final Water Requirements Report is in the process of being completed and will be finalised and distributed within the next month.</p> <p>Water Availability/ Balance</p> <p>EvdB gave an update on the status of this task: the water resources yield model is in the process of being updated with the most recent water requirements and allocations as well as changed capacities of the system infrastructure. The aim is to determine the current yield of the system and produce a baseline water balance. Once the model is configured for this baseline scenario, intervention yields will be determined and different future scenarios (various combinations of interventions) will be tested.</p> <p>GB asked about the effect of the updating of the system model with revised irrigation allocations. NvW responded that there is unlikely to be any large change to modelled water use.</p> <p>EvdB also noted that drought rules are less relevant in the current (long-term) modelling and will not have any significant influence.</p> <p>Interventions</p> <p>Interventions process</p> <p>It was explained that, during this task a comprehensive list of potential intervention options were assimilated (the 'long list'), and then, through discussion and consultation with stakeholders, it will be reduced to a 'short list' of the more feasible/ realistic possibilities. These will then be analysed in more detail and used to inform the development of the final strategy.</p> <p>Clarification was provided on the definition and purpose of interventions: essentially an intervention is any measure that is taken to increase the water available. This can be an infrastructural development, a WC/WDM strategy, a water transfer into the system etc.</p> <p>NvW noted that as there is a net transfer into the Mhlathuze water supply system it is logical not to have major transfers out of it.</p> <p>TP brought up the issue of transfers to the north (Mtubatuba etc.) which are being considered, and NvW responded that this is because that area is relatively undeveloped, and developing internal supply infrastructure there has cost implications. He emphasized the general good planning principle of first using water from the closest available (and affordable) source.</p> <p>ND asked about the water transfer to uMkhanyakude LM. NvW responded that this is a small-scale transfer and a matter of convenience. The transfer is for domestic purposes and does not have the same level of cost implications as irrigation or industrial demands.</p> <p>NW noted the importance of defining the boundaries of the study area, even if they have to be reassessed later on.</p>	<p>EvdB/ CS</p>

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4.3.2	<p>Long list of options A document providing background and the Long List of options was distributed to key stakeholders for comment and discussion before the meeting. Further contributions were made as follows during the meeting:</p> <p>In the evaluation of short-listed options to follows, it was explained that different schemes can be costed on different scales. This could for example relate to different transfer volumes or to the evaluation of typical sizes of plants, e.g. desalination.</p> <p>It was noted that distribution is also important. The destination of the water could potentially have a significant impact on the cost, because of distribution network costs.</p> <p>EvdB emphasized that programmes for implementation of different options are important: some schemes might be ruled out as a result of their implementation timeframes. The duration of implementation timeframes are very often under-estimated.</p> <p>NvW noted that a ten-year planning horizon might be significant from a political point of view; this is the horizon currently being considered by the Minister of DWS and others. EvdB confirmed that the reconciliation strategy study is likely to have an action plan aimed at this planning horizon anyway.</p> <p>It was noted that additional water that might be made available as a result of interventions recommended by this study would be destined to meet future demands, as there is no current deficit.</p> <p>Industrial WC/WDM was added to the list of interventions.</p> <p>It was noted that proposed guidelines/ targets are being discussed for mining, but haven't been finalised yet.</p> <p>It was agreed that agricultural WC/WDM isn't likely to be an intervention. SA advised that the study team should obtain the study undertaken by DWS, Usutu to Mhlathuze Water Management Area: WC/WDM Study: City of uMhlathuze LM.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the billing of irrigators is currently done according to allocation, not by usage, but billing by usage is preferable, especially as electricity usage is still being measured and being provided to the DWS.</p> <p>NW was of the opinion that the option of a pipeline from Goedertrouw Dam to the Nsezi WTW is not applicable to this study: it is an operational issue and does not lead to a net increase in the water in the system.</p> <p>Rainwater tanks were recommended as an option to evaluate further. NvW advised the study team to look at the investigation done during the Water Reconciliation Strategy for the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Metropolitan Areas.</p> <p>Reuse of stormwater is limited by pump and storage capacities on site. It was agreed that this would not be pursued as a major intervention, but still promoted for local conservation.</p> <p>It was noted that the water levels of lakes have become more erratic in the last seven to ten years. The problems with Lake Nhlabane may have to do with the increase in eucalyptus trees in the catchment and their effect on the groundwater.</p> <p>NvW advised that the eradication and control of invasive alien vegetation should be classed under Land Care.</p> <p>It was reported that Umgeni Water is currently building a weir on the lower Thukela River, and that this may provide an opportunity for the coastal pipeline from the Thukela to be evaluated.</p>	<p>EvdB/ CS</p> <p>EvdB/ CS</p>

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	<p>NW said that a dam on the Mfule River would need to be sized at least at 0.7 MAR to create meaningful yield and allow for silt loads, which are high in this catchment. Flows from the Mfule River help meet the demand of the Heatonville irrigators. A suitable dam site is expected to be difficult to find.</p> <p>GB mentioned that a possible dam site is located just above the confluence of the Nseleni and uKhulu rivers, which is located upstream of the Nseleni WWTW but it would back-flood the existing Crystal Dam upstream.</p> <p>In terms of the potential reuse of the Mondi WWTW effluent, there were different opinions on whether the effluent quality was compliant and the study team undertook to revisit the matter.</p> <p>The study team was advised to keep in mind any potential for desalination of brackish ground water, once the results of the groundwater investigation become known.</p> <p>Additional information was provided by attendees on the intervention options on the long list.</p>	EvdB
4.3.3	<p>Identification of options to evaluate further</p> <p>As a result of the afore-going discussion and inputs the long list was reduced to a short list of eleven interventions. These will be taken forward and analysed in more detail. In the interventions workshop taking place towards the end of November the interventions will be presented for further discussion and inputs.</p>	EvdB/ CS
4.4	<p>Interventions Workshop</p> <p>The workshop for this task will take place towards the end of November 2014.</p>	
4.5	<p>Reserve Classification Review</p> <p>IWR will be involved in this task, carrying it out in October/ November 2014. This needs to be interlinked with the reserve determination and other relevant studies that are currently being carried out. Dr Cate Brown is the integrator involved in the current reserve study.</p> <p>EvdB tabled the possibility of lakes being included in the ongoing reserve study. Lakes have not been studied to the extent of the rivers in the area, and the figures given for the sustainable yields seem low. Only rudimentary studies have been done; further investigation is necessary - this might be a recommendation for the next phase of the reserve study.</p> <p>The conclusion reached was that although the rivers are fairly well understood from this perspective, the lakes need to be studied further. NvW was of the opinion thought that the few changes could be made to the scope of the ongoing reserve study at this stage.</p> <p><i>Note: since this meeting it has been decided that the reserve classification task of this study is not required any more as it overlaps with other initiatives within the DWS, and can be excluded from the study.</i></p>	
4.6	<p>Reconciliation Strategy</p> <p>A template for this document has been set up and may be circulated to the DWS for comment at some point. The actual development of the strategy is still some time in the future, and it is during that task that the template will be populated.</p>	

Item		Action
4.7	Stakeholder Engagement It is expected that another presentation to the Mhlathuze Catchment Management Forum could be done by Aurecon along with their meeting in November, which is to take place around the time of the next workshop/ progress meeting	
4.8	Capacity Building and Training The interventions workshop will be the next opportunity for a training session. After that one more training session is planned for this study.	
5.	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
5.1	Budget and cash flow No issues were reported here.	
5.2	Programme The study is proceeding according to programme. An updated programme was circulated at the meeting, but it was evident that further refinement of the programme may necessary. There was some debate on whether the interventions workshop should be moved to February 2015.	
6.	STUDY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	
6.1	Next Meeting The preliminary date for the next study stakeholder meeting was proposed for the end of November.	
7.	GENERAL No general discussion.	
8.	CLOSURE Mr van Wyk thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting.	

UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER MEETING DATES:

- Tuesday 25 November 2014
- Tuesday 24 March 2015
- Tuesday 26 May 2015
- Tuesday 21 July 2015
- Tuesday 20 October 2015

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