

VAAL RIVER SYSTEM STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MINUTES OF MEETING 2

DATE: Wednesday, 24 February 2010
TIME: 09:00 – 13:15
VENUE: Motsweding Conference Room, 16th Floor,
Gauteng Regional Office, Department of Water Affairs,
Sanlam Plaza East, 285 Schoeman Street, Pretoria

	ACTION
<p>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS The Chairman, Mr Peter van Niekerk (Department of Water Affairs – DWA), welcomed all to the second meeting of the Vaal River System (VRS) Strategy Steering Committee (SSC).</p>	
<p>2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES The attendance register has been attached. The following apologies were received: Mr Helgard Muller, DWA Mr Harrison Pienaar, DWA Mr Louis Snyders, DWA Mr Deon Dippenaar, Sedibeng Water Mr Nic Opperman, AgriSA Mr Wandile Nomqophu, Water Research Commission Mr Coenie Erasmus, Free State Dept of Tourism, Environment and Economic Affairs Mr Samuel Mtsuku, Free State Dept of Tourism, Environment and Economic Affairs</p>	
<p>3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA The agenda was accepted with the following additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of minutes of the previous meeting was added as Point 4;• An invitation to civil society representatives will be discussed under the new Point 8;• “Discussion and Comments” will not become the new Point 10, but rather be omitted as a discussion will take place during each Point; and• Communication was added as Point 9.	
<p>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the first meeting of the SSC on 23 July 2009 were approved with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Page 3 – The first sentence should read ‘Mr Martin Ginster (Sasol) suggested that non-governmental organisations representing civil society should also be included in the SSC’;	

ACTION

- Page 5, Point 6.1 – The second paragraph should read ‘The first step in water compliance enforcement is to undertake the validation and verification of water use, which should be completed by the end of 2010’. Changes were also made to the third paragraph with ‘regulations’ replaced by ‘compliance enforcement project’; and
- Page 6, Point 6.2.1 – In the fourth paragraph ‘through compulsory licensing’ was added afterif farmers were forced....

The minutes of the first meeting will be sent out again to all members with the documentation of the second meeting.

André
Joubert

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM SSC MEETING 1 ON 23 JULY 2009**

Point 4.1 – Terms of Reference

No comments were received on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the VRS SSC. The changes suggested during the first meeting have been implemented. The final ToR will be sent out to all members.

André
Joubert

Point 4.2 – Membership

Officials from all provinces (Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, North West and Northern Cape) within the VRS have been invited to the second meeting as well as officials from the largest municipalities. The national Department of Minerals and the Department of Environmental Affairs are members of the Governmental Task Team investigating Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) and are being kept informed by DWA officials on the VRS.

Point 9.1 – Frequency of meetings

The SSC members need regular information on the VRS, but it is not possible to send members the monthly reports that were compiled for DWA top management, because this system fell away. This will be discussed later in this meeting.

6. **BACKGROUND**

Mr Johan van Rooyen (DWA) said the Reconciliation Strategy’s main purpose is to ensure that there is enough water in the VRS for the future. That implies that this SSC will exist forever as the functions of the SSC are ongoing.

The SSC must also ensure that:

- Decisions are implemented. If there is not enough water in the Vaal River then it is the responsibility of this committee to ensure action is taken. If implementation does not happen timeously then the SSC should influence decision makers to take action. This committee must also warn the Minister or Director-General of Water Affairs of a pending crisis;
- The Strategy is updated and adjusted when necessary; and
- All deliberations and decisions of this SSC are communicated to all organisations, the media and the citizens of South Africa. There are many doom and gloom statements in the media. It is the job of this committee to provide the correct facts to the media in such cases.

Discussion

Mr Fred van Zyl (DWA) asked if the Reconciliation Strategy is an action-orientated strategy and if there will be sector indicated implications? Mr Johan van Rooyen said it is important to set clearly defined goals, because one institution cannot do everything. There must be a sharing of responsibilities by all stakeholders.

Ms Barbara Weston (DWA) asked if the SSC will also have an auditing function. Mr Johan van Rooyen said the SSC will ensure that the Strategy is implemented and will also monitor projects done in the VRS.

7 FEEDBACK ON KEY STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

7.1 WATER USE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Mr Hennie Smit (DWA) said around 180 million m³ of water is lost to unlawful irrigation in the Upper Vaal Water Management Area (WMA) per annum. This puts the whole VRS at risk and the assurance of supply is threatened. Measures must be implemented to prevent unlawful water use and the monitoring and enforcement efforts must be increased.

The DWA has started with the validation and verification of water in the Upper Vaal WMA, because no legal action can be taken against a landowner before the verification process has been completed. This is a long and protracted process.

There is also a need for regulations and legislation, because unlawful users cannot be prosecuted without these in place. Should the correct processes not be followed, long, drawn out legal processes could defeat the aim of stopping unlawful water use within a short space of time. Draft regulations are at an advanced stage and will soon be published for public comment.

It is highly unlikely that the unlawful water use will be eradicated by the end of 2011, as was initially planned, due to a variety of reasons such as the lack of human resources. The process of appointing a Professional Service Provider (PSP) is at an advanced stage. This PSP will assist with a variety of tasks such as validation and verification and the implementation of Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement.

Discussion

Mr Martin Ginster (Sasol) said the PSP's scope of work should look beyond the legal approach. He asked if SSC members may have an input in the ToR that were drawn up for the appointment of the PSP. Mr Smit said the ToR cover everything and does not only concentrate on the legal aspects. All comments will, however, be highly appreciated, said Mr Smit. The scribe was instructed to send the ToR to all members of the SSC.

Mr Van Niekerk asked if the ToR is confidential. Mr Smit said it has already been published and is public knowledge.

Dr Garth Batchelor (Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism) said his province has over 2 000 outstanding Water User Applications

Hennie Smit

André
Joubert

ACTION

WUA) and many mines operate without a Water User License (WUL). Will the PSP assist with the process of speeding up WULs, because at this rate Mpumalanga will not be able to catch up with all the WUAs. Mr Smit said the PSP will only concentrate on unlawful irrigation and while the outstanding WUAs are a serious problem, it cannot be resolved within this SSC.

Mr Pieter Viljoen (DWA) asked if all unlawful water use will be investigated by the PSP. Mr Van Niekerk said the PSP will only focus on unlawful irrigation.

Mr Kebalepile Itholeng (Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) said he is concerned that the target date for the eradication of unlawful irrigation will not be met. Mr Smit reiterated that a start will be made and said a portion of the unlawful irrigation will be addressed by the end of 2011. Once the PSP has been appointed the way forward will be much clearer. Mr Van Niekerk asked if the process to appoint a PSP cannot be speeded up. Mr Smit said the DWA is already too far into the current process since the short listing of PSPs has already been completed.

The SSC expressed concern that the target dates are not being met. A recommendation should be made to the DG of DWA to give full support to Mr Smit's team. Mr Smit said this would certainly help the task team to fulfil its role.

Mr Van Niekerk said the Minister and DG of the DWA must be informed of potential problems or concerns. If the SSC has concerns then top management must be informed. A short report should be compiled and sent to top management.

Mr Itholeng asked if the possible prosecution of farmers for unlawful water use is not against Government agricultural policy. There are many small, rural farmers who do not know that they have to register their water use. Mr Smit said 99.9% of all unlawful water users are commercial farmers and small, rural farmers will not be affected. In fact, this project will make water available to these farmers.

Mr Johan van Rooyen (DWA) said it is also a moral issue. Many people say the unlawful water use is good for the economy, but we cannot base the economy on something unlawful. The DWA has the full support of organised agriculture. If the unlawful water use continues water restrictions will be the only option and then it will affect all users and the lawful irrigators to the greatest extent.

Mr Anesh Surendra (Eskom) asked what will be done with the water after it has been taken away from the unlawful water users. Mr Johan van Rooyen said the unlawful water use represents a reduction in water use from the System and it will not be given to a specific group.

Mr Peter Pyke (DWA) asked if the DWA is looking at universal metering to monitor and control the water. Mr Smit said this is the aim of the regulations, but not necessarily with meters, because there are other methods of measuring water use.

Ms Weston asked if unlawful discharge into the VRS will also be investigated. Mr Smit

**Seef
Rademeyer**

**Pieter van
Rooyen
Pieter van
Rooyen**

**André
Joubert**

said only unlawful irrigation water use will be investigated. Mr Van Niekerk said preventing unlawful discharge is also very important, but it should be handled by a different strategy. Mr Viljoen suggested discharge into rivers must be dealt with under water quality management.

Mr John Critchley (Rand Water) asked if the potential saving will also be 180 million m³. Mr Johan van Rooyen said the Strategy was developed based on the assumption that around 85% of that quantity will be recovered.

7.2 WATER CONSERVATION / WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Mr Paul Herbst (DWA) provided feedback on the progress made by Gauteng municipalities on Water Conservation and Water Demand Management (WC/WDM) in order to meet the 15% reduction in water use by 2013 which will translate into a saving of around 200 million m³.

Various workshops have been held, task teams have been set up and a draft business plan for the WC/WDM Task Team have been developed to make Project 15% a reality by 2013.

The four biggest municipalities (City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and Emfuleni) have active programmes to reach the target of 15% by 2013 and the smaller municipalities in Gauteng also have various programmes to reach this target.

Very little of the targeted savings were achieved up to now and a lot still needs to be done in Gauteng. The bulk of the reduction in water use was achieved by the City of Tshwane mainly due to an increase in tariffs and some through loss management.

Another cause for concern is that the Litres per Capita per Day (LPCPD) have increased in the four large municipalities and at 308 l/c/d does not compare well with the 215 l/c/d of the smaller municipalities.

Funding remains a major stumbling block for the implementation of WC/WDM. Possible sources of funding include the Accelerated Community Infrastructure Programme, the Development Bank of South Africa and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

The way forward includes setting up a Programme Management Unit (PMU) to drive the implementation of Project 15% and to set up regular meetings with municipalities to monitor and report on progress and performance.

Discussion

Dr Batchelor asked if there are similar initiatives in Mpumalanga. Mr Herbst said the initial focus is on the big municipalities. The Govan Mbeki Municipality, which is in Mpumalanga, is part of Project 15%.

Mr Francois Olivier (Ekurhuleni) is concerned with the targets of WC/WDM being set for municipalities in Gauteng, because this year the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality,

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for example, will be buying 1.23% less water from Rand Water than the previous year. Comparing current bulk purchases (estimated at 324,7 million kl for 2009/10) with the historical trend in bulk water purchases (333,4 million kl projected for 2009/10) then the difference is already 31% of the targeted saving set by the DWA for Ekurhuleni. This can be seen as a massive saving which it is not. A clear target guideline for WC/WDM must be drawn up for the municipalities. The targets should then be formally communicated to municipalities. It is also important to indicate by when these targets should be achieved.

Paul Herbst

Mr Van Niekerk said municipal targets must be clarified.

Mr Johan van Rooyen said the DWA is looking at targets for WC/WDM, but it is a difficult process, because the DWA does not know what the challenges of the municipalities are. Demand for water is less due to the economic recession and this should not be seen as a reduction due to effective WC/WDM. Municipalities should report on what they are doing for WC/WDM, because we are not achieving the 15% saving. Funding must be found to establish a PMU to support and capacitate municipalities.

Paul Herbst

The meeting accepted three proposals regarding WC/WDM:

- Clear indicators must be found to measure WC/WDM at all municipalities;
- The four big Gauteng municipalities must report directly to the SSC on the progress of WC/WDM and not through the Directorate: Water Use Efficiency; and
- A PMU must be established to support municipalities.

Mr Jones Mnisi (Johannesburg Water) said regular progress reports are provided by the municipalities. The current economic recession is providing serious challenges to the municipalities in many areas.

7.3 UTILISATION OF TREATED EFFLUENT

Mr Seef Rademeyer (DWA) said more water resources are needed in the VRS and the re-use of water will become very important in the near future. The Re-use Strategy includes both the re-use of mine water - Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) - and treated sewage effluent.

Currently water is released from the Vaal Dam to dilute the high saline water downstream and due to economic growth the return flows will increase into the VRS which will necessitate an increase in dilution releases.

There is also a possibility that additional water from the VRS must be transferred to the Crocodile West Marico Catchment and Mokolo Catchment for Eskom and Sasol projects. Should these projects materialise, then the DWA cannot simply transfer one catchment's water quality problems to another, because water must first be treated before it can be transferred.

To best utilise these return flows, the locations, volumes and qualities of current and future effluent discharges need to be confirmed.

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<p>Many of the mines are investigating the re-use of mine water. Some mines have piloted treatment processes and are discussing distribution with local water service providers. The plans of these mines need to be collated and reviewed.</p>	
<p>The locations and volumes as well as where the effluent can be re-used need to be determined. This assessment should include re-use for potable and industrial purposes as well as treatment and discharge. The PSP appointed will undertake these investigations.</p>	PSP
<p>Firm answers will be needed at the next meeting of this SSC.</p>	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Mr Ginster asked what is the DWA's solution to the brine problem associated with desalination. Mr Rademeyer said that aspect will form part of the investigations. He said the DWA would not like to replace mine dumps with brine dumps.</p>	PSP
<p>Mr Johan van Rooyen said we need to distinguish between the re-use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMD which is basically salt water that can be purified easily; and • Sewage which is a more difficult process if you want to directly re-use the water. 	
<p>Mr Ginster asked what the tariffs for the re-used water will be. Mr Van Niekerk said this meeting cannot debate costs and more clarity is needed on this matter.</p>	PSP
<p>Ms Marina Kruger (Midvaal Water) asked what the timeframes for the investigations of the re-use of effluent are. Mr Rademeyer said answers will be given in the next meeting of the SSC.</p>	PSP
<p>7.3a ACID MINE DRAINAGE</p> <p>Ms Shane Naidoo (DWA) provided feedback on the AMD problem in the Witwatersrand. The DWA, the Department of Minerals and the Department of Science and Technology and other stakeholders have formed a Task Team to focus on the short and medium term management of AMD.</p>	
<p>Due to the heavy rains AMD has started decanting at old mines in the Western Basin. Mining companies are encouraged to apply for subsidies to keep their pumps running so that the AMD does not decant.</p>	
<p>The plan is to transfer the AMD from the Western and Eastern Basins to a treatment plant in the Central Basin. After treatment, the water will be released into the VRS and the Crocodile West Marico Catchment. A long term option is to purify the AMD to potable standards.</p>	
<p>The institutional arrangements and the apportionment of liability will be finalised within the next two months.</p>	Shane Naidoo
<p>Discussion</p>	

Mr Critchley said Rand Water was approached by a private company who wants to treat AMD and sell the treated water and wanted advice on what to answer this company. Mr Van Niekerk said this is not the forum to answer such a question, but it sounds like a good initiative. Cleaning the AMD lessens the need to dilute the water in the VRS. Mr Johan Rooyen said it seems logical to treat AMD to potable standards and then to sell it to Rand Water. Obviously the selling price should be realistic and comparable to the current price of purified bulk water. Mr Surendra agreed and said we cannot afford to send untreated water from one stressed environment to another.

Mr Van Niekerk commented that we must be seen as responsible water managers working towards a solution to the benefit of all.

Mr Francois van Wyk (Rand Water) said time is not on our side and the AMD problem must be solved soon. He asked if the treated water will be pumped to Lephalale for Eskom and Sasol projects. Ms Naidoo said no decisions have yet been taken.

Mr Johan van Rooyen said treating the AMD can be done step by step. It can first be treated up to a standard where it can be discharged into a river. It is not necessary to first build a desalination plant to clean the AMD up to potable standard.

7.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURAL AUGMENTATION

Mr Peter Pyke (DWA) said there has been a change in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project configuration, because Lesotho is investigating using development grants which it wants to use to develop hydro-electricity. South Africa is currently negotiating with Lesotho to avoid possible risks of increased delays or higher costs to Phase 2 of the project.

Lesotho is looking to access development grants which it wants to use to develop hydro-electricity in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP). South Africa is currently negotiating with Lesotho to avoid possible risks of increased delays or higher costs to Phase 2 of the LHWP.

Lesotho is investigating an alternate direct tunnel route between the Polihali Dam and the Muela Dam that would allow for the generation of additional hydropower. This option would increase capital costs and holds risks of a longer construction period and was not the option recommended in the Feasibility Study which was completed in 2008. This study identified from among various alternatives, the preferred scheme consisting of Polihali Dam to be constructed on the Senqu River, with a gravity tunnel transferring water to Katse Dam. From Katse Dam the water would be delivered to the VRS through an existing delivery tunnel system that will be upgraded, via the Muela Dam.

The Polihali Dam can contribute 465 million m³/a to the VRS but only if mitigation measures are put in place to replace the yield of 283 million m³/a, which is lost from the existing Orange River yield. Without the implementation of yield replacement in the Orange River, the Polihali Dam can only deliver 182 million m³/a without negatively impacting the assurance of supply of existing users in the Orange River. Yield replacement in the Orange River will thus have to be implemented to utilise the full yield of LHWP Phase 2.

The SSC expressed its concern regarding the extension in the completion date of this dam from 2019 to 2020 and the potential for further delays.

Here are some of the milestones of this project:

Signing of Treaty Protocol	September 2010
Design Tender issue	May 2012
Start Camp Construction	March 2014
Start Dam and Tunnel Construction	April 2016
Water Delivery	September 2020

Discussion

Mr Johan van Rooyen asked if there is a major risk of delaying the project while Lesotho is investigating its hydropower scheme. Mr Pyke said negotiations are underway to minimise such a risk.

The meeting also expressed its concern regarding the extension in the completion date of this dam from 2019 to 2020 and the potential for further delays. This should also be brought under the attention of the DG of the DWA.

Peter Pyke

Dr Beason Mwaka said the water from the Polihali Dam is vital to the VRS. Mr Pyke said the DWA would have liked to receive the water much earlier than 2020, but a major construction project like this takes time. The DWA will try and speed up the process to win some time. The October 2007 cost estimated for the project stands at around R7 billion.

Mr Itholeng asked what will happen between 2013, when projections show the VRS will begin to struggle to meet demand, and 2020 when the Polihali Dam is finished. Mr Johan van Rooyen said this is the main reason why the campaign to eradicate unlawful water use and Project 15% are so important. These two will make up the shortfall in the VRS until 2016 when the re-use project will infill the gap until 2020.

7.5 WATER QUALITY STRATEGY

Mr Jurgo van Wyk (DWA) said water quality in the VRS is heading for potential problems but this can be prevented through effective implementation of the Integrated Water Quality Management Strategy for the VRS. Integration across the Water Management Areas within the VRS and integration of all studies are vital for the success of this Strategy.

This Strategy aims to achieve the following:

- Maintaining or improving the water quality of the water resources within the VRS for all recognised water users as well as beneficial water uses in order to assist in securing ecologically sustainable development, while also promoting justifiable social and economic development;
- Managing the water resources of the VRS in order to comply with the determined integrated Resource Water Quality Objectives (RWQOs). These RWQOs will form the basis of the water quality management of the VRS;

- Controlling the salinity, eutrophication and microbiological contamination levels in the VRS, and major tributaries, as the key water quality issues identified;
- Improving source management controls and measures as a means to limit and control point and diffuse sources that significantly impact on the water resources of the VRS; and
- Improving management of the water resources of the VRS by more effective monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Water quality issues had been identified during a water quality status assessment of the VRS. All the identified issues have been grouped into four focus areas:

- Salinity;
- Eutrophication;
- Microbiological pollution; and
- Institutional challenges.

The Vaal River Integrated Water Quality Management Strategy is structured such that each of these focus areas receive explicit attention.

As there are various departmental role-players designated to fulfil different, but supporting functions that collectively make up Water Quality Management in the DWA, the challenge, firstly, in the VRS is to ensure that all these efforts are directed towards common goals in a coordinated fashion. The VRS SSC is an attempt to direct, co-ordinate and harmonise all Water Resource Management efforts and specifically also the water quality management efforts, within the VRS in a coherent manner.

Discussion

Ms Weston asked if the Strategy addresses aquatic nuisance plants and weeds. Mr Van Wyk explained that the causes of the growth of these aquatic nuisance plants are addressed by the Strategy. He said that if the effect of eutrophication persists and needs to be remedied, this will have to be incorporated and studied.

Jurgo van Wyk

Mr Itholeng said no mention was made of other polluters in the presentation. Mr Van Wyk said all polluters are included in the Strategy.

Mr Itholeng asked what enforcement actions are included in this Strategy. Mr Van Wyk said there is a gap in the Strategy regarding enforcement. The SSC could form a sub-committee to investigate the possibilities regarding enforcement.

Jurgo van Wyk

7.6 COMPREHENSIVE RESERVE DETERMINATION OF THE VRS

Mr Pieter van Rooyen (WRP) presented the progress on behalf of Ms Weston and said this reserve determination of the VRS looked at the Upper, Middle and Lower Vaal and is the largest study of its kind in South Africa.

The study is conducted in five distinctive phases:

Phase 1: Study Inception (project management component)

Phase 2: Compilation of Terms of Reference and Procurement

Phase 3: Technical Reserve Determination Studies Initiation

Phase 4: Technical Reserve Determination Studies (surface and ground water)

Phase 5: Project Closure

Phase 1 was the initiation phase before the technical studies were initiated. Phases 2 to 5 are the tasks and activities undertaken by the technical study teams to ensure the successful determination of the Reserve for the Integrated VRS.

Phase 1 of the study has been completed with the approval of the inception report of the project management component. Phases 2 and 3 have been completed with the successful appointment of technical PSP teams to conduct all components of the technical studies (surface and groundwater) and the completion and approval of the inception reports for the surface water and groundwater sub-studies.

The project is currently finalising phase 4 and the project closure phase will be initiated in June 2010 with project closure scheduled for September 2010.

Discussion

Mr Johan van Rooyen said in an ideal process there will also be a full public participation process where among other things the economic implications of the Reserve is evaluated in deciding the classes for the river. However, if all these were done, the process would have taken years to complete. He suggested that representatives from the SSC attend the reserve determination workshops in order to have stakeholder participation already at this stage. In this way a preliminary reserve will be determined to give the DWA something to work with.

Mr Van Niekerk said the SSC should advise the DWA on the preliminary reserve that will be used until the full reserve determination process has been finalised. The DWA is obliged to have the water requirements for the ecological reserve before other water users can be licensed.

Mr Johan van Rooyen suggested that Ms Weston consider using the SSC as a forum for discussing the study outcomes. It was decided that the way forward on this proposal will be discussed among the DWA officials to work out the best procedure.

**Seef
Rademeyer**

Ms Weston said a monitoring system must be developed as soon as possible.

Mr Itholeng commented there were many acronyms in the Reserve Determination Progress Report. Mr Van Niekerk asked that all words must be written out in full the first time it is used in a document.

7.7 WATER BALANCE UPDATE METHOD

Mr Pieter van Rooyen (WRP), by referring to the map of the Integrated VRS, said that the Mokolo, Crocodile and Vaal River systems are interlinked and all the system balances must be revised to update the balance for the Vaal River System.

Known changes that need to be incorporated in the balances include:

- Planning for water supply to Lephalale is ongoing and the water requirements have

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<p>been updated recently;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crocodile System has updated yield results; • Target WC/WDM savings in the Rand Water supply area were not achieved and updated saving projections need to be developed; • Eradication of unlawful water use process is delayed; and • Ecological Water Requirements is in the process of being determined. <p>Based on the status of the implementation of the Strategy elements (as explained in previous presentations), the water balance and target reconciliation scenario presented need to be revised.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Mr Johan van Rooyen said there will always be uncertainties and asked Mr Pieter van Rooyen to give an update at the next meeting. It will be a lot of work, but that is the nature of this type of work. Mr Pieter van Rooyen said a re-balance will be done and relevant variables will be investigated.</p>	<p>Pieter van Rooyen</p> <p>Pieter van Rooyen</p>
<p>8. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Mr Van Niekerk asked the meeting if there are any organisations not present at this meeting that should still be invited to future meetings.</p> <p>Mr Ginster asked if representatives of civil society should not be invited. He realises this is a technical meeting, but at a later stage the SSC could be challenged on representation.</p> <p>Mr Johan van Rooyen said it is always a problem to keep the size of this meeting at a manageable level. The SSC should think of having a public meeting once or twice a year and invite representatives of civil society to such meetings. Newsletters and media releases must also be used to keep the public informed of this process.</p> <p>Mr Van Niekerk said the merits of regular public meetings must be investigated and if someone asked to be included in the SSC, then it should be investigated.</p> <p>Mr Van Wyk said this process has been going on for many years with regular public meetings and newsletters giving ample opportunity for a person or organisation to join the SSC.</p> <p>Mr Van Niekerk said the PSP should contact a few people and organisations to find out which representatives from civil society should be invited to the next meeting.</p> <p>Mr Itholeng said a structure is needed to roll out information, because one meeting a year will not be enough.</p>	<p>Pieter van Rooyen</p> <p>André Joubert</p>
<p>9. COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Mr Van Niekerk asked that all relevant documentation be placed on the DWA's website and the link must be emailed to all members and also included in the media release.</p>	<p>André Joubert</p>

<p>A newsletter and a media release must be written and sent to all members for comments.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>Pieter van Rooyen</p>
<p>Mr Johan van Rooyen explained that communication with the DWA top management has changed, because monthly reports have been phased out and information is only sent to top management when necessary.</p>	<p>André Joubert</p> <p>Pieter van Rooyen</p>
<p>He suggests a short progress report should be drawn up that can be sent to top management to keep them informed. This report can be sent to all members who can use this progress report for their respective managers.</p>	<p>André Joubert</p>
<p>Mr Johan van Rooyen asked that the minutes of this meeting, the progress report and the media release be available two weeks after this meeting – on 10 March 2010.</p> <p>Mr Ginster suggested placing more popular articles regarding the VRS on the website as well and not only scientific reports.</p>	<p>Pieter van Rooyen</p> <p>André Joubert</p>
<p>Mr Surendra suggested the SSC must respond to media articles that are not factually correct to set the record straight. Mr Van Niekerk said the DWA always responds to such articles in the name of the DG. If SSC members come across factually incorrect article, please forward it to the DWA for comment.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be on Thursday, 19 August 2010.</p>	
<p>11. WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE Mr Van Niekerk said the SSC has been given greater clarity on progress and even greater clarity will be provided at the next meeting as the whole process unfolds.</p>	

VAAL RIVER SYSTEM - STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING 2 – 24 FEBRUARY 2010 ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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