



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate: National Water Resource Planning

VAAL RIVER SYSTEM STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MINUTES OF MEETING 3

DATE: Thursday, 21 October 2010
TIME: 09:00 . 15:30
VENUE: Motsweding Conference Room, 16th Floor,
Gauteng Regional Office, Department of Water Affairs,
Bothongo Plaza East, 285 Schoeman Street, Pretoria

ACTION

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

The Chairman, Mr Peter van Niekerk (Department of Water Affairs . DWA), welcomed all to the third meeting of the Vaal River System (VRS) Strategy Steering Committee (SSC).

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The attendance register has been attached. The following apologies were received:
Mr Louis Snyders, DWA, Northern Cape
Mr Deon Dippenaar, Sedibeng Water, Mr Hans Mey attended on his behalf.
Mr Nic Opperman, AgriSA
Ms Marina Kruger, Midvaal Water
Mr Jones Mnisi, Johannesburg Water. Mr Etienne Hugo attended on his behalf.
Mr Francois van Wyk, Rand Water
Mr Petrus Venter, DWA North West. Ms Caroline Shai attended on his behalf.
Ms Lulu Ngomane, Gauteng Water Forum, Mr Adrian Wilson attended on her behalf.
Mr Rikus du Plessis, North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation,
Environment
Mr Abe Abrahams, DWA, Northern Cape
Ms Rachalet Cronje, DWA

3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:

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- Point 6.5 . ~~And~~ was added to the heading which changed to: **Water Quality Strategy AND Focus on Acid Mine Drainage**;
- Point 6.6 . A short presentation by Ms Shane Naidoo on the Classification of Water Resources was added to his point.
- Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was also added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the second SSC meeting on 24 February 2010 were approved with the following changes:

- Page 4 . In the Action column, Pieter van Rooyen was replaced with Johan van Rooyen under Point 7.1 next to the fourth paragraph from the top;
- Page 8 . The first paragraph of Point 7.4 was deleted and the second paragraph becomes the first sentence starting with: ~~Mr~~ Peter Pyke reported that...q
- Page 13 . In the Action column, Pieter van Rooyen was replaced with Johan van Rooyen under Point 10 next to the third paragraph from the top.

A Joubert

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM SSC MEETING 2 ON 24 FEBRUARY 2010

Mr Van Niekerk commented that the Actions of the previous meeting are covered by this meeting's presentations.

Mr Seef Rademeyer (DWA) suggested the meeting can decide at the end of the day's proceedings if any Actions were not covered by the presentations.

5. BACKGROUND

Mr Johan van Rooyen (DWA) said the Reconciliation Strategy's main purpose is to ensure there is enough water in the VRS for the future. The Strategy consisted of six pillars:

- Eradicate unlawful water use.
- Implementation of Water Conservation and Water Demand Management to reduce losses (Project 15%).
- Implement Phase 2 of Lesotho Highlands Water Project.
- Assess water effluent treatment and re-use . focus on mine water.
- Implement Integrated Water Quality Management Strategy.
- Constitute Strategy Steering Committee

This SSC plays a vital role in the success of implementing the Strategy and underpins the whole water resource management process. If we have a failure in the VRS we must ask ourselves in this committee what we have done wrong. The SSC cannot make decisions but we can monitor and recommend what needs to be done to make a success of the Strategy's implementation.

6 FEEDBACK ON KEY STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

6.1 WATER USE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Mr Hennie Smit (DWA) highlighted that unlawful water use is putting the VRS at risk

and that the eradication thereof is a priority activity. An experienced professional service provider (PSP) has been appointed in June 2010 for a three year project to address the illegal water use in the three Water Management Areas (WMAs) - Upper, Middle and Lower Vaal.

Mr Smit said it is unlikely that the target date of 2011 for the eradication of all unlawful use in the VRS will be met. A list of the top 100 illegal water users in each WMA is currently being compiled with a view to concentrate on these first. For example, in the Upper Vaal WMA (where the bulk of the possible illegal use occurs) only 9.7% of properties (83) are using 43% of the total unlawful water use volume. The target set for the Upper Vaal WMA is to address users using more than 100 000 m³/ per year illegally (90% of illegal volume) before the end of 2011.

The development of Regulations required to enforce legal water use is at an advanced stage and once internal departmental consultations with management have been concluded, the Regulations will be published for public comment.

Discussion

Mr Kobie Mare (Rand Water) asked what the situation would be regarding unlawful water use during a drought. Mr Smit said a drought will be managed as it has always been done. There are various categories of water users and different levels of water restrictions will be introduced to these categories including irrigation. Until the DWA has identified and quantified unlawful irrigation water use, all water use will be curtailed during drought periods in accordance with the established curtailment rules. Mr Johan van Rooyen (DWA) said all water users in the VRS will be treated the same during water restrictions.

Mr Martin Ginster (Sasol) said there is also a need for focused awareness raising programmes. Mr William Moraka (SALGA) agreed and said communication regarding unlawful water use must be escalated. Issues such as waste water must also be addressed. We must show the public and the water users the issue is serious and if necessary, the communication campaign can be driven politically to give it more weight.

Mr Andries Meyer (Sasol) said the real test will be the first court cases against the unlawful water users. He wanted to know if a 90% eradication of illegal water use is not too optimistic. Mr Smit said the DWA envisages that very few of the illegal water use cases will end up in court. The intention is to take a few high profile cases to court. It should then be easier to enforce compliance with the rest through cooperation. The DWA must however, first prove that water is being used illegally.

Mr Mare asked if the unlawful water users are being charged. Mr Van Niekerk said the illegal water use of individuals must first be quantified before any step can be taken against them. It was mentioned that all registered water users receive bills for their water use.

6.2 WATER CONSERVATION / WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT

At the previous SSC it was agreed that the four big Gauteng metros/municipalities be

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invited to do presentations regarding Water Conservation / Water Demand Management (WC/WDM). Mr Van Niekerk asked Mr Paul Herbst (DWA) to liaise with the four in order to work out a uniform system of reporting back to the SSC on WC/WDM for the next meeting of this committee.

P Herbst

- a **City of Tshwane** . Mr Philip van der Walt said their main focus for WC/WDM is on upgrading and replacing the water distribution system, replacing valves and practicing leak control. Every year there are more people using water as new users are linked up to the reticulation network. The City of Tshwane buys 15% less from Rand Water than in the past mainly due to an increase in tariffs. Indirectly effluent is also being re-used which contributes to the reduced supply from Rand Water.

Discussion

Mr Seef Rademeyer (DWA) commented that it is not always clear if a reduction in water use is an actual saving or weather related or something else, which makes it very difficult to calculate savings directly due to WC/WDM.

- b **Johannesburg Water** . Mr Etienne Hugo gave a presentation and said interventions to reduce or limit losses included water mains replacement, pressure management, active and passive leakage control, reservoir and tower monitoring, hostel retrofitting and the Soweto Infrastructure Project. The City of Johannesburg has approximately 11 300 km of water reticulation mains and 15 full time teams survey these on a daily basis, covering 10,000km (89% of reticulation mains) per annum.

WC/WDM is an important activity for the City of Johannesburg because future demands will not be sustained by the future available supplies. Although the City started with various projects and pilot studies since the late nineties it realised the importance to continue with similar projects and the sustainability thereof.

Water mains replacement is very effective in reducing the number of pipe bursts experienced on old infrastructure. This contributes to the reduction in water losses on the transmission and distribution mains. The pressure management initiatives reduced the water supply into the targeted areas and have also proven to be successful in areas experiencing on-property leaks. The active and passive leakage control implemented resulted in positive results although a decrease in the trend of water supply is not present. The fact that the growth in demand is zero is having a positive impact. The monitoring taking place on the reservoir and tower sites proved to be successful and the overflows have been limited to almost zero. The programmes and interventions put in place to limit or reduce real losses within the water reticulation system will contribute to a reduction in the water demand of the City in an effort to contribute to the overall 15% reduction by 2013/2014

Budget allocation is still a problem and the required money for WC/WDM is not prioritised and available. Alternative funding opportunities is being investigated. If funding is not available it will be difficult to achieve the required savings to contribute to the 15% reduction that is required in the VRS.

Discussion

Mr Van Niekerk thanked Mr Hugo for an excellent report.

Mr Kebalepile Itholeng (Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) asked if it is possible for the DWA to verify WC/WDM savings reported by local authorities. He is also worried about leaking and broken pipes that are left to leak for days on end. Mr Hugo said the public is always asked to report leaking or broken pipes but admitted that the City of Johannesburg is currently struggling with its call centre.

Mr Itholeng also commented it is not fair to consumers to use tariff increases as a WC/WDM tool. Mr Van Niekerk said the best approach to WC/WDM is a multi-pronged approach that could include leak control and an increase of tariffs as some of the measures available to a municipality.

- c **Ekurhuleni Metropolitan** . Mr Francois Olivier gave a presentation and reported a drop in their bulk water buying but said it could be due to the good rains of the past few seasons. Their three main WC/WDM projects were:
- Bulk Meter Consolidation, which concentrated on the 500 biggest users. This project discovered many unmetered connections as well as faulty connections.
 - Indigent Leak Repair Project, which fixed water leaks inside homes and on private properties. The unit cost per property came to R1 371.73 which is too high. This unit cost could be lowered by employing local people to fix leaks within their communities.
 - OR Tambo International Airport Services to audit the services rendered to the airport and to verify whether the metering is correct and if the correct billing has been applied.

Mr Olivier said the biggest challenge facing WC/WDM at municipal level is the lack of budget and access to funding.

Discussion

Mr Mare commented that it is a difficult situation municipalities find themselves with regard to fixing leaks on private property. Rand Water is reluctant to spend money on leaks on private property and passes the buck to the municipality who in turn expects the owner to fix leaks. But fixing any leak will assist all of us in the long run.

Mr Van der Walt said an increase in the consumption tariff will force people to fix leaks, because it will become too expensive in the long run to ignore a leaking tap if you are paying for the water.

Mr Moraka asked what sustainability plans are in place with regards to water. Mr Van Rooyen said there is a huge backlog regarding infrastructural spending by municipalities. The long term maintenance of municipal infrastructure is vital and must be budgeted for. Mr Helgard Muller (DWA) agreed and added if nothing is done, then water losses due to leakages will increase.

Mr Rademeyer said it is also important to know why a reduction in water use took place. Was it due to WC/WDM management such as leak control or simply due to

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good rains? Mr Olivier said changes are usually observed when a specific intervention is done in a specific area.

- d **Emfuleni Municipality** . Mr Sydney Chauke made a presentation and reported similar problems regarding WC/WDM such as poor metering, inaccurate billing, wastage by consumers due to inefficient use, high pressure in some areas resulting in excessive leakage and poor maintenance of the water and sanitation infrastructure.

Interventions to improve the situation include: the preparation of a water balance, sectorisation and bulk metering; pressure management; logger and controller equipment; leak detection and a repair programme; reticulation refurbishment; non-domestic consumer audits; retrofitting of on-site plumbing; residential consumer metering, the refurbishment of reservoirs and consumer education.

The main challenges to WC/WDM at the Emfuleni Municipality include a lack of funding and a lack of capacity in critical posts, said Mr Chauke.

- e **DWA** - Mr Herbst said in his presentation the four municipalities present at this meeting must contribute 95% of the possible WC/WDM water savings in Gauteng. According to the data, there has been an overall reduction of 77million m³ compared to the original projections. This includes both water loss and water use efficiency measures, such as tariff increases. The municipalities still has to focus their attention on water loss reduction.

SSC members

Discussion

Mr Itholeng asked why the five year target for WC/WDM was not met. Mr Herbst said the municipalities were slow to activate and implement WC/WDM and the aim is now to aim for the ten year target. A lack of funding is also a problem at all municipalities.

Mr Moraka said he gets the idea that the approach by the municipalities can do with some assistance from SALGA who is prepared to help. Mr Herbst thanked him for his offer and said he will set up a meeting between the two of them and Mr Rademeyer to take this process further.

**P Herbst
S Rademeyer
W Moraka**

Mr Van Niekerk said SSC members must think of how the DWA can support municipalities, even if it is to suggest political interaction.

6.3 UTILISATION OF TREATED EFFLUENT

Mr Rademeyer said the utilisation of treated effluent is one of the pillars of the Strategy. The reason for this study is that the Reconciliation Study showed that excess water accumulates in the Bloemhof Dam if current operating conditions are continued and that Bloemhof Dam will start spilling in future, which implies a loss of water from the VRS. This excess water is due to the increase in return flows and the subsequent dilution releases exceeding the water requirements in the Middle and Lower Vaal WMAs.

The study approach was to identify the sources of return flows and return flow volumes and quality information was collected. The study also focused on mine water

discharges as a first phase. It also identified users for the return flow volumes, developed scenarios, tested scenarios, checked excess in the Bloemhof Dam and compared simulated totally dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations at key points on the Middle and Lower Vaal as well as the Klip and Suikerbosrand Rivers to Resource Water Quality Objectives that were set as part of the Integrated Water Quality Management Plan for the Vaal River.

Some of the conclusions of the study were that the re-use of mine water results in a significant improvement in the TDS concentrations in the Vaal River as well as the Klip and Suikerbosrand Rivers. The re-use of mine water as per Scenario C significantly reduces the excess in Bloemhof Dam. Thereafter, the accumulation of excess starts to occur again sometime after 2026. No immediate need to further investigate the re-use of treated sewage effluent (depending on the outcome of the latest investigations to water requirements in the Crocodile West and Olifants Catchments) is therefore needed.

It will be shown in one of the later presentation on the revised water balance that a scheme to re-use mine water needs to be developed and implemented as a matter of urgency!

Discussion

Mr Coenie Erasmus (Free State Department of Tourism, Environment and Economic Affairs) asked how accurate the figures are for Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), because the figures he saw showed that much more AMD is decanting. Mr Rademeyer said the latest figures and statistics for AMD are more accurate than in the past and decanting is actually slower than what was originally thought. Mr Jurgo van Wyk (DWA) said the latest figures show that 12 mega litre AMD decants daily and not 15 mega litre as was originally thought.

Mr Erasmus asked what the impact of AMD will be on the Ecological Reserve. Mr Rademeyer said future plans for the treatment of AMD will actually help the Ecological Reserve by adding treated clean water back into the system and taking salts out of it.

Mr Erasmus said the current treatment does not remove iron from the treated water and a few days afterwards it causes the pH to drop.

Mr Itholeng said whatever is used to neutralise AMD in Krugersdorp is also harmful to the environment. Mr Van Niekerk said Mr Itholeng refers to lime that were used in Krugersdorp to neutralise the AMD and said that the long term option to desalinate the water will prevent this problem in future.

6.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURAL AUGMENTATION OPTION

Mr Pyke reported on the implementation of Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP). Lesotho has a serious electrical energy shortage and wishes to become more energy independent and therefore wanted to revise the agreed layout to maximise hydropower generation from Phase 2.

Lesotho also wanted to change the delivery schedule to transfer the full yield of

Phase 2 from the earliest possible stage. This was investigated using system analysis simulations and found to pose a serious threat to the water security of the VRS. It would have also required the yield replacement dam on the Orange River to be built at a much earlier time. This was pointed out to Lesotho in high level negotiations.

Agreement in principle has now been reached on an acceptable water transfer methodology reverting to the original Phase 2 layout. Details are to be sorted out in the next 12 months. Other power supply options for Lesotho such as a major pumped storage project would be jointly investigated. The revised water transfer methodology has the potential to unlock the full benefit of the investment in LHWP for the Vaal River water users.

On 12 August 2010 a Declaration of Intent was signed by the Heads of State. Finalisation of the Agreement is ongoing.

Discussion

Mr Erasmus asked what the impact of Phase 2 will be on the Orange River. Mr Van Niekerk explained there will only be an impact on the Orange River if the incremental yield is exceeded, but studies will be done to prevent this from happening. Mr Johan van Rooyen added that interventions have already been done on a replacement dam to counter the loss of water to the Orange River System.

6.5 WATER QUALITY STRATEGY AND FOCUS ON ACID MINE DRAINAGE

Mr Jurgo van Wyk (DWA) reported on the Implementation of the Integrated Water Quality Management Strategy for the Vaal River System (VRS). The aim of the Strategy is:

- Maintaining or improving the water quality of the water resources within the VRS for the benefit of all recognised water users and 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);
- Controlling the salinity, eutrophication and microbiological contamination levels in the System, 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 System; and
- Improving management of the water resources of the System by more effective monitoring, assessment, reporting and management participation.

The Focus Areas of the Strategy are:

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

Mr Van Wyk also reported back on the Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting consisting

of various departments and research institutions that was convened to find solutions to the AMD problem. This committee did a risk appraisal; assessed work done by various institutions to date; assessed available solutions and technologies; looked at the viability and cost of critical short term interventions; studied integrated lasting and sustainable medium and long-term solutions; and also explored possible partnerships with the private sector.

Mr Van Wyk concluded that the Strategy needs to be implemented in an iterative fashion focusing on priority issues first. The RWQOs constitute the most important performance indicators of resource water quality. The time is ripe to pursue the explicit linking of Source Directed Control and water user associations, such as licensing, with the determined receiving water quality requirements.

Discussion

Mr Erasmus commented the Strategy needs monitoring systems to measure progress.

Mr Meyer asked if a large desalination plant will help to solve the AMD problem. Mr Van Wyk said that the Vaal River strategies require the elimination of salt loading emanating from underground mine water return-flows. He added that the matter is still being investigated to, amongst others; determine the number and location of possible desalination plants.

Mr Meyer asked if brine will be a problem. Mr Van Wyk said treatment by-products, such as brine, are of concern and those technologies that produce limited, and saleable and useful by-products are to be targeted.

6.6 COMPREHENSIVE RESERVE DETERMINATION OF THE VAAL RIVER SYSTEM

Ms Barbara Weston (DWA) presented the progress of the Comprehensive Reserve Determination of the Vaal River System. She touched on the selection of Ecological Water Requirements (EWR) sites, the results of the eco-classification process, the operational scenarios selected and evaluated and provided a summary of the ecological consequences.

The conclusions of this study were:

- Providing Ecological Water Requirements (EWR) sites in terms of flow was not an issue. The problem is putting variability back into the system;
- Water quality problems . too much flow and seasonal reversal the main impacts on the Vaal River;
- Current management of the System is providing for the EWRs in most of the cases;
- Overall management of the System should be to solve the water quality problems;
- Major reduction of available water in the Vals and Vet Rivers if EWRs are implemented;
- Priority tributaries where no EWR is available should be identified and assessed;
- Monitoring to be implemented to assess the effect of the use of return flows, the implementation of transfers, further decanting of mines, water quality and further water use; and

- Implementation of the EWR is not going to solve the water quality problems and other ecological challenges on its own.

Ms Weston said the way forward is to finalise all study reports and prepare documentation for the approval of the preliminary Reserve. The Comprehensive Reserve study results will feed into the Water Resources Classification System (WRCS) that has been initiated for the VRS.

Ms Shane Naidoo (DWA) gave a short overview of the new WRCS that places water resources into different categories called Management Classes. The WRCS is a set of procedures for determining the different classes of water resources.

The Regulations (R810) for the establishment of the WRCS was published in Government Gazette No 33541 dated 17 September 2010. The Regulations define three classes of water resources:

- Class I - minimally used and configuration of ecological categories of that water resource minimally altered from its pre-development condition;
- Class II - moderately used and configuration of ecological categories of that water resource moderately altered from its pre-development condition; and
- Class III - heavily used and configuration of ecological categories of that water resource significantly altered from its pre-development condition.

The procedure for determining different classes of water resources is a 7-step procedure and MUST be followed:

- Step 1: Delineate the units of analysis and describe the status quo of the water resource(s);
- Step 2: Link the socio-economic and ecological value and condition of the water resource(s);
- Step 3: Quantify the ecological water requirements and changes in non-water quality ecosystem goods, services and attributes;
- Step 4: Determine an ecologically sustainable base configuration scenario;
- Step 5: Evaluate scenarios within the integrated water resource management process;
- Step 6: Evaluate the scenarios with stakeholders; and
- Step 7: Gazette and implement the class configuration.

Discussion

Mr Erasmus asked if the WRCS is also being utilised by the River Health System. Ms Weston said there is close interaction between the WRCS and the River Health System.

6.7 WATER BALANCE UPDATE – REVISED RECONCILIATION

Mr Pieter van Rooyen (WRP) presented a revised reconciliation of the Water Balance of the VRS. In his presentation he looked at the monitoring of water use and return flows; the revised water requirement and return flow scenarios; the possible transfers to the Crocodile West River System; mine effluent management scenarios; he

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presented a risk analysis; a simplified interpretation of Annual Balances; strategic interventions and recommendations for further investigations.

Uncertainties include the support required to the Olifants and Crocodile Rivers, failure to achieve WC/WDM savings and failure to eradicate unlawful water use.

Strategic interventions for the VRS are:

- The eradication of unlawful water use by 2013;
- Implementation of WC/WDM (Project 15%) . achieve target savings by 2015;
- Implementation of Phase 2 of LHWP by 2020;
- Mine water effluent treatment and use by 2014; and
- Plan a yield replacement scheme in Orange by 2034.

Discussion

Mr Phineas Malapela (Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance) asked if the wastage of water between the supplier and the consumer has also been factored into one of the scenarios. Mr Pieter van Rooyen explained the High Scenario, including WC/WDM, does exactly that.

Mr Malapela asked why the water meant for the VRS is being kept in the Katse Dam in Lesotho. Mr Johan van Rooyen explained that the rate of evaporation at the Katse Dam is much lower than that of the Vaal Dam, because the former is high up in the mountains where it is colder and it is also a very deep dam, while the Vaal Dam is very shallow with a very large surface. The longer the water stays in the Katse, the less we lose to evaporation.

Mr Mare asked if sewage return flows re-use were calculated into the scenarios. Mr Pieter van Rooyen said only AMD were used in these scenarios. Mr Johan van Rooyen said if return flows are kept at manageable levels, then people in the Lower Vaal can re-use all of that water.

Mr Mare asked if all the scenarios worked on the assumption that illegal water use will be stopped. Mr Johan van Rooyen said all scenarios had to assume that illegal water use will be solved or else we will have to implement water restrictions to all users in the VRS.

Mr Mare said the DWA should investigate the effect of a successful WC/WDM campaign on the tariffs/profit margins of the TCTA, because if less water will be needed, then the TCTA will have a drop in its income.

Mr Mare asked if the TCTA can be requested to work out tariffs for after 2014 when there will be a drop in demand due to WC/WDM. Mr Johan van Rooyen said the TCTA should consider doing the necessary calculations.

N Gosani

Mr Johan van Rooyen said the figures used by Mr Pieter van Rooyen in his presentation should be used to explain to top management the need for funding for WC/WDM to prevent water restrictions.

DWA

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Mr Surendra asked why groundwater does not feature in the Strategy. Mr Johan van Rooyen explained that the potential of groundwater is very low.

Mr Olivier commented that the metros/municipalities should assist the DWA with its calculations of the Water Balance in the sewage drainage areas. Mr Pieter van Rooyen said this would assist to improve the monitoring of the North South Split.

**Metros/
Municipalities**

Mr Surendra asked if the planning of Rand Water is synchronised with that of the DWA. Mr Johan van Rooyen said there is very good liaison between the DWA and Rand Water. Mr Mare said Rand Water must keep the DWA informed at all times. Both organisations also use exactly the same statistics and information.

8. **CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Mr Van Niekerk asked the meeting if there are any glaring omissions regarding persons or institutions that should be invited to the next meeting. Since the last meeting Save the Vaal Environment (SAVE) and the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) were invited to this meeting.

9. **COMMUNICATION**

Mr Johan van Rooyen said a draft Progress Report and a draft media release must be sent to all members for comment within two weeks of the meeting (4 November 2010).

**P van Rooyen
A Joubert**

Mr Van Niekerk said the media release needs something newsworthy. Mr Johan van Rooyen said it is a bit of a dilemma, because we can be positive and spell out why we are positive or we can be negative and list all our problems. We should have a combination of the two approaches and say we are positive and that we can supply water to all, but under the following conditions.

Mr Olivier said he is hesitant to put something in the open without having the necessary commitment to provide funding to support it. We must first have all our ducks in a row before we send out a media release.

Mr Pyke said it is high time to counter the dubious reports in the media regarding water resources and share with them the pillars of this Strategy. Show the people it is all happening in an orderly fashion and not hap hazardously.

He said the public must also start putting pressure on their local authorities to start accessing funding for WC/WDM.

Mr Mare said we need to inform decision makers of the planned strategic interventions and explain why WC/WDM is not happening. The drop in water consumption during the last few years was due to the good rains and not to WC/WDM. Five years ago we had similar discussions and very little has changed.

Mr Pieter van Rooyen said the media release should highlight the lack of funding for WC/WDM.

Mr Van Niekerk said the Progress Report can be used by all members to inform their

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principals and colleagues.

Mr Rademeyer said a newsletter will also be drafted to inform the public.

**P van Rooyen
A Joubert**

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13 April 2011.

11. WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Mr Van Niekerk thanked the members of the SSC for their attendance and for their constructive contributions.