



Minutes of the 2nd Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting

Date and time: 8 November 2012 @ 13:30

Venue: Umgeni Water, Pietermaritzburg

1. WELCOME AND CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING

Mr Kobus Bester, the study leader, welcomed all attendees to the 2nd PSC meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

2.1 ATTENDANCE

The following people attended the meeting (attendance list attached as **Annexure A**):

Kobus Bester	(KB)	DWA: Options Analysis (East)
Salona Moodley	(SM)	DWA: Options Analysis (East)
Norman Ward	(NW)	DWA: KZN Regional Office
Kevin Meier	(KM)	Umgeni Water
Gavin Subramanian*	(GS)	Umgeni Water
Amal Doorgapershad*	(AD)	Knight Piésold
Iain Watson*	(IW)	Knight Piésold
Speedy Moodliar	(SM)	eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality
Kevin James	(KJ)	BKS/AECOM
Hermien Pieterse*	(HSP)	BKS/AECOM
Gerald de Jager	(GdJ)	BKS/AECOM
Bongi Shinga	(BS)	ACER (Part of BKS/AECOM team)
Denver Ince	(DI)	KZN Dept of Rural Development and Land Reform
Rechi Dlamini	(RD)	Agri-Business Development Agency
Dhamendra Ragoonandan	(DR)	Msunduzi Local Municipality

Note: Attendees marked with an asterisk () were requested to attend a separate session to focus on technical matters not adequately addressed in the preceding PMC Meeting.*

2.2 APOLOGIES

Maxwell Pawandiwa	Ugu District Local Municipality
Frank Stevens	eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality
Neil van Wyk	DWA: National Water Resource Planning (East)
Vello Govender	KZN COGTA
Brenden Sivparsad	Msunduzi Local Municipality

2.3 NO REACTION RECEIVED

Bheki Mbambo	Umgungundlovu District Municipality
Bheki Makwakwa	Sisonke District Municipality



3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved without any additions or changes.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

The primary objective of the 2nd PSC Meeting was to provide an update of progress on the project and to further engage with committee members.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the 1st PSC Meeting were accepted without any additions or changes.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (NOT ADDRESSED IN AGENDA)

6.1 A PROJECT (GLOSSY) PAMPHLET (BKS PREPARED DRAFT)

BKS prepared a draft project pamphlet for the purpose of providing stakeholders and other interested parties with useful background information on the project and to serve as a point of reference for all three modules. It was noted that inputs were still required from DWA, Umgeni Water and Knight Piésold and BS was requested to circulate an electronic copy of the draft version to all relevant project team members and coordinate all comments for finalisation of pamphlet. All PSC members were also encouraged to provide feedback and/or update their relevant stakeholders. The pamphlet will also be updated with the details of the Professional Service Provider (PSP) who will be undertaking Module 2: Environmental Impact Assessment, once appointed.

BS

6.2 ARTICLE IN IMESA MAGAZINE

An article on the uMWP1-1 was published in the October 2012 edition of the IMESA Magazine

6.3 RECONCILIATION STRATEGY SSC

BKS presented information on the uMWP1-1 at the Strategy Steering Committee (SSC) for the Implementation and Maintenance of the Reconciliation Strategy of the Kwazulu-Natal Coastal Metropolitan Area Water Supply System.

7. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON STUDY OVERVIEW, PROGRESS AND FIRST FINDINGS OF THE UMWP-1: **MODULE 1: TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY: RAW WATER**

7.1 OVERVIEW OF MODULE 1: TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY: RAW WATER

- (a) KJ provided an overview of *Module 1: Technical Feasibility Study: Raw Water* (presentation slides attached in **Annexure B**).

7.2 PROGRESS AND FINDINGS

7.2.1 Water resources

(a) GdJ provided an overview of the water resources assessment, including results of the land use and hydrological analyses, as well as preliminary yields for the proposed phases of the uMWP (presentation slides attached in **Annexure B**). The following points were noted/questions asked:

- **What is the status of the Reserve classification in the Water Management Area?**

(b) KB explained that the PSP appointed to undertake the classification of water resources and determination of the comprehensive reserve and resource quality objectives in the Mvoti to Umzimkulu WMA has been appointed. Progress made to date includes the submission of an Inception Report in October 2012 and convening of the first PMC Meeting.

(c) The results of the study will, however, only be available in 2014 and will therefore not be applied in the uMWP1-1/RW study. Concerns were raised over the implications of this limitation, particularly with regard to the impact on the sizing of the proposed Smithfield Dam. GdJ indicated that they have had discussions with the PSP's Delana Louw with the aim of requesting them to prioritise uMkhomazi River. Further meetings with that PSP are planned to coordinate efforts.

- **What is the potential for future growth in irrigation, forestry and dry-land sugarcane in the catchment?**

(d) KB indicated that planned development, particularly large-scale irrigation and commercial forestry developments, have to be accounted for in the modelling of the scheme in order to quantify the impact on available water resources.

(e) DI, representing the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, commented on a slide showing the apparent decline of irrigation in the catchment over the last 15 years by saying that this may be an interim phenomenon related to unsettled land claims in the area. Furthermore, he indicated that he was not aware of any plans currently being considered to develop irrigation schemes in the uMkhomazi. There are, however, opportunities in the area for the further development of grazing.

(f) RD, representing Agri-Business Development Agency, mentioned that the main development activities are near Ixopo where land is being rehabilitated for farming purposes. She offered to enquire with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries regarding any planned future developments in the area.

(g) NW of the DWA KZN Regional Office said that the uMkhomazi River catchment is currently "closed" (which means that new application for development within the catchment are not considered) in order to preserve flows at acceptable levels over the dry season. He added, however, that some potential may exist if developers are willing to provide the additional storage required to mitigate the associated negative effects. Furthermore, regarding commercial forestry, he suggested that the maximum potential development in the catchment could be based on a principle adopted by the Regional Office of not allowing a total coverage of more than 20% of the catchment area. He added that, in some quaternary catchments, this limit has in fact already been exceeded.

BKS

RD

(h) Finally, it was suggested that both the Institute for Commercial Forestry and Forestry South Africa, both based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, are contacted for further guidance in this regard.

GdJ

• **Will there be any opportunity to pipe water directly from the dam for small-scale irrigation?**

(i) KB indicated that this was unlikely since using large dams to supply irrigation is prohibitively expensive. He added, however, that if the need for such a scheme is identified the possibility should be investigated further.

BKS

7.2.2 Engineering investigation

(a) KJ provided a progress update on the Engineering Investigation (presentation slides attached in **Annexure B**).

(b) KM of Umgeni Water asked that the option should be considered of repositioning the tunnel outlet slightly such that the pipeline could be realigned to avoid the need for a large cut – particularly if the system analyses undertaken indicate that a balancing dam is not required. KJ indicated that this option will be considered and that feedback in this regard will be provided at the next PSC meeting

BKS

(c) KJ also mentioned that DWA has requested BKS to investigate hydropower generation options as part of the feasibility study. This is to ensure that all feasible water use or requirements are investigated during the planning stage.

7.2.3 Geotechnical Investigation

(a) KJ provided a progress update on the Geotechnical Investigation (presentation slides attached in **Annexure B**).

(b) KJ indicated that tenders for the geotechnical investigations have been submitted and a decision is expected to be made during the week. He further stated that there have been meetings with landowners who will be affected by the drilling of the borehole points.

(c) DI asked if there will be any restrictions on land where the tunnel will be built. KB responded by saying that DWA will expropriate the land which will be required for the infrastructure development. A separate process will be undertaken which deals with compensation, should there be a need for relocations. KJ added that the proposed tunnel will be underground and is therefore not impact upon by land ownership.

8. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON STUDY OVERVIEW, PROGRESS AND FIRST FINDINGS OF THE UMWP-1: **MODULE 2: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

(a) KB indicated that DWA is in a process of appointing a PSP/EIA Consultant and are busy with negotiations.

(b) A site visit with the appointed PSP will take place during the 1st week of December 2012.

(c) The timeframe for the EIA is estimated at 30 months.

9. KEY ISSUES TO DATE

- (a) It was observed that attendance of PSC members representing District and Local Municipalities is a problem. It was suggested that the Project Team considers or adopts a different strategy that will encourage attendance. It was, however, also noted that representatives of the Municipalities were attending the National Water Resources Strategy meeting held in Durban on the same day. KB reiterated the need for stakeholders to be involved early in the process in order to avoid delays due to lack of understanding and/or concerns about not being involved in the planning stages.
- (b) BKS stressed that results from the uMWP-1: MODULE 3: TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY: POTABLE WATER, particularly the projected water requirements at Umlaas Road are required urgently to enable the final sizing of Smithfield Dam.

BS

GS

10. GENERAL

10.1 LANDOWNER CONSULTATION

- (a) DI and RD raised concerns about the consultation of landowners. HSP clarified that the extent of consultation required for an EIA and for the feasibility study differs. Consultation to date has only focussed on owners of properties where drilling will take place. A comprehensive public participation process will be part of the EIA.

11. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Proposed dates for the next meeting will be circulated to all PSC members.

BKS

12. CLOSURE

The meeting adjourned at 15:55.

Notes prepared by B Shinga & G de Jager

Annexure A: Attendance register

Annexure B: Progress report presentation