UMKHOMAZI WATER PROJECT PHASE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

MEETING TYPE: EIA Scoping Phase Public Meeting to announce the uMWP-1
DATE: 23 October 2013
TIME: 10H00 – 12h30
VENUE: Baynesfield Club

ATTENDANCE

Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Email
L. Carpenter (LC)	The Mynde Harry Antel Family Trust	083 391 0423	Lyndall.carpenter@gmail.com
M. Broch (MB)	Baynesfield Factory		marcelb@bayfac.co.za; parasm@bayfac.co.za
H. Richardson (HR)	Umgeni Water	083 591 0079	howardr@clubafrica.net
C.V. Crouse (CC)	Hill Farm	084 555 9530	
R. Norton (RN)	The Mynde	082 837 5094	
S. Reynolds (SR)	Sappi Farms	083 229 2845	
P. Rolland (PR1)		083 985 5363	
E. Lewis (EL)	Lewis Farming	082 692 4203	
A. Carpenter (AC)	Mynde farm	084 770 3727	
C. Lenferna (CL)	Baynesfield Estate	082 045 2328	
L. Antel (LA)	The Mynde Farm	082 922 2364	linda.antel@gmail.com
C. Coulthard (CC)	Cottonwood Farm	082 695 8720	
P. Rees (PR2)	DUCT	082 340 7517	pennyduct@vodamail.co.za
D. Burden (DB)	DUCT	082 825 8425	doug@duct.org.za
K. Magudu (KM)	DUCT	079 772 9073	kholosa@duct.org.za
R. Antel (RA)	Observer	082 296 2424	thejuicemaster33@gmail.com
T. Norton (TN)	The Mynde Farm	072 588 0866	taryn.norton1@gmail.com
N. Theron (NT)	BirdLife SA	076 545 8977	nick.theron@birdlife.org.za
B. Dewduth (BD)	Resident	072 820 7309	
R.H. Snoep (RS)	Kyalami Farm	072 257 5582	
L.J. Snoep (LS)	Kyalami Farm		
M. Arbuthuot (MA)	Kyalami Farm	084 276 4444	
R. Bruce (RB)	Kyalami Farm	072 767 0927	
M. Schmid (MS)	DOT	082 902 0120	michele.schmid@kzntransport.gov.za
E. Antel (EA)	The Mynde Harry Antel Family Trust	082 448 6072	eantel@mweb.co.za
T. Tedder (TT)	Richmond Fire Protection Association	082 551 2878	terry@richmondtpa.co.za
G. Withey (GW)		072 670 8707	garywithey@absamail.co.za
V. Antel (VA)	The Mynde	082 530 5678	
J. Magwaza (JM)	Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)	074 298 9445	
I. Little (IL)	EWT	084 240 7341	
C. Lewis (CL)	Kyalami Farm	082 940 9183	skynet@w2k.co.za
N. Ward (NW)	DWA KZN	082 808 2721	
G.A. Palmer (GP)	Baynesfield Estate	083 630 3111	
E. Faber (EF)	Baynesfield Estate	082 436 4919	

Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Email
R. Gevers (RG)	Landowner	072 143 6673	happyvegcc@gmail.com
L. Baum (LB)	Resident	033 251 0200	
P. Odell (PO)	Resident; Land Manager	082 874 9209	pele@natforest.com
A. Monis (AM)	Richmond Agricultural Society	083 599 8212	
B. Seele (BS)	Landowner	033 251 0311	seeleben@telkomsa.net
M. van Deventer (MvD)	Baynesfield Estate	082 849 1568	
J. le Roux (JlR)	Resident	083 530 0979	
R. Benes (RB)	Baynesfield Estate	072 872 2086	
S. Khoza (SK)		076 982 5049	
G. Baum (GB)	Baynesfield estate	082 817 8598	
K. Bester (KB)	DWA	084 517 5560	besterk@dwa.gov.za
S. Moodley (SM)	DWA	084 423 4400	moodleys2@dwa.gov.za
L. Archer (LA)	Umgeni Water	083 274 1330	lyn.archer@umgeni.co.za
G. Subramanian (GS)	Umgeni Water	071 671 7164	gavin.subramanian@umgeni.co.za
H. Pieterse (HP)	AECOM	082 564 3638	hermien.pieterse@aecom.com
B. Shinga (BS)	AECOM / ACER	035 340 2715	Bongi.shinga@acerafrica.co.za
A. Doorgapershad (AD)	Knight Piésold	031 262 2950	adoorgapershad@knightpiesold.com
G. Lempert (GL)	Knight Piésold	081 127 8097	aquarius@iway.na
D. Henning (DH)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1730	donavanh@nemai.co.za
R. Maharaj (RM)	Nemai Consulting	031 266 3884	rivanim@nemai.co.za
K. Mngomezulu (KM)	Nemai Consulting	011 781 1730	khosim@nemai.co.za

Notes:

These minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of the meeting, but rather as a summary of the salient discussions which took place.

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The meeting commenced at approximately 10H00. Donavan Henning (DH) facilitated the meeting and welcomed everyone present. DH introduced the project team members.

2 PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

DH explained that the aims of the meeting were as follows:

1. To introduce the project;
2. To provide an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
3. To provide a platform for project-related discussions; and
4. To obtain input into the Scoping Phase.

3 PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made by members of the project team. Copies of the presentation are contained in Appendix A.

Hermien Pieterse (HP) from AECOM presented the Project Background and Motivation, as well as the uMkhomazi Water Project Phase 1 (uMWP-1) Raw Water component, which included an overview of the following:

- Smithfield Dam;
- Smithfield Dam - quarries and earth fill borrow areas;
- Smithfield dam - roads (alternatives for current roads);
- Smithfield dam - Eskom infrastructure;
- Raw water conveyance infrastructure;
- Langa balancing dam;
- Langa balancing dam - quarry and earth fill barrow areas; and
- Project programme.

Amal Doorgapershad (AD) from Knight Piésold presented the uMWP-1 Potable Water Component, which included an overview of the following:

- Water demand projections;
- Pipeline routing;
- Water Treatment Works (WTW); and
- Pipeline details.

Dr Günter Lempert (GL) from Knight Piésold presented details of the proposed uMWP-1 Potable Water WTW, which included an overview of the following:

- Potable water;
- WTW;
- Phased implementation –
  - Phase 1;
  - Phase 2;
- Process technology;
- Main process considerations;
- Basic process design philosophy;
- Treatment process envisaged;
- Hydraulic profile; and
- Conclusion.

DH from Nemai Consulting presented the EIA, which included an overview of the following:

- Legal Framework;
- EIA Process;
- Feasible Alternatives;
- Public participation;
- Scoping phase aims;
- Preliminary list of specialist studies;
- Waste management;
- Quarries and borrow pits;
- Water use;
- Heritage resources; and
- EIA time frames.

4 DISCUSSIONS

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
4.1	AM: Will the Langa balancing dam affect downstream water users?	HP: The balancing dam will only serve to store water to facilitate maintenance to the tunnel. Water supply will not be jeopardised.	-
4.2	MvD: Raised a concern with the waste disposal site for the spoil material on the Baynesfield Estate. Enquired about the volume of spoil material that will be generated at the tunnel outlet.	HP: An alternative to the spoiling site is under investigation, which will entail the possible use of the spoil material in the dam wall. DH: The volume of excavated material to be generated at the tunnel outlet is approximately 920 000 m^3.	-
4.3	EL: Do you have any other options for the access roads to the balancing dam? Objection raised to Options 2 and 3 of the access roads.	HP: Other options will be investigated. Welcomed input from the local community.	-
4.4	AC: What is the purpose of the proposed road to the balancing dam?	HP: This road will serve to gain access to the balancing dam during the construction and operational phases of the project. Traffic on this road will subside substantially after construction.	-
4.5	AC: Could the balancing dam also be used for recreational purposes in the future?	KB: With normal dams DWA undertakes a formal process to explore recreational opportunities. Community participation is a key component of this process. The feasibility of recreational use of a balancing dam needs to be investigated further.	-
4.6	AC: The Mynde Farm overlooks the site for the proposed WTW. The plant will impact the visual quality of the area. What noise levels will be generated at the WTW?	DH: A specialist study will be conducted as part of the EIA to determine the visual impacts associated with the project infrastructure. Noise levels will also be assessed as part of the EIA in relation to sensitive receptors in the area.	-
4.7	RG: Where will the waste from the WTW be disposed of?	DH: Presented the following options for the disposal of the sludge from the WTW: • Disposal to land to support an agricultural operation; • Disposal at a licenced landfill; or • Re-use (e.g. using it as additive for making bricks).	-
4.8	RG: Has the Shongweni Dam been considered as an option?	NW: The Shongweni Dam is not a viable option as it is not linked to a WTW.	-
4.9	PR1: Raised an objection to Option 3 for the WTW due to its visual impacts.	DH: Noted. The preliminary list of specialist studies for the EIA phase includes a Visual Impact Assessment.	-

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
4.10	EL: Objected to all the WTW sites in the Baynesfield area.	DH: Noted. The best practicable environmental option for the WTW will be identified during the EIA.	-
4.11	RG: What volume of input material will be required for the operation of the WTW per day?	GL: Approximately 30 tons, which will be 1 truck per day for the complete plant.	-
4.12	AC: Until when will the capacity of the WTW be sufficient?	GL: The expected period is up to 2053.	-
4.13	AC: Is it possible to blend the WTW into the environment?	GL: Need to explore architectural designs to limit the visual impacts.	-
4.14	AC: What will the height be of the highest structure at the WTW?	GL: Approximately 6 metres.	-
4.15	TN: Would there be a high fence around the WTW?	LA: Yes. All of Umgeni Water's WTWs are secured with a fence. GL: Trees could also be planted around the fence to provide some screening of the WTW. DH: As part of the refinement of the locational options for the WTW, and in acknowledgment of impacts associated with this facility, an additional option was identified (Option 2). This option is situated in an area that was deemed to be less obtrusive. The site is also afforded some screening from the surrounding forestry plantation.	-
4.16	PR2: Will the WTW cause light pollution, as if the case at the Midmar WTW with its spotlights?	DH: Light pollution to be investigated during the EIA.	-
4.17	MvD: What are the issues with the WTW site that is situated on the Crookes Farm? The best option for Baynesfield is Option 3 and the worst is Option 1, which the local community will all object to.	AD: The WTW sites in the Baynesfield area are preferred from a technical and topographical perspective. DH: The preferred alternative site for the WTW will need to be evaluated through a comparative analysis in the EIA.	-
4.18	IL: Noted the possible occurrence of blue swallows in the project area. Will these species be adversely affected by the development?	DH: We have engaged with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and they have also highlighted this as a concern. An avifauna specialist will need to assess this matter during the EIA.	-
4.19	IL: Will offsets be considered?	DH: The EIA will consider the need for offsets further, following the completion of the relevant specialist studies.	-
4.20	TT: Emphasised the need to engage	DH: This requirement will be stipulated in	-

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
	with the Richmond Fire Protection Association.	the Environmental Management Programme.	
4.21	MS: The EIA will need to assess all impacts to roads as well as any access roads that will need to be created.	DH: Confirmed that this would be done as part of the EIA.	-
4.22	AM: Will the development have any impacts on trust land?	DH: The dam is situated on land owned by Traditional authorities. Due to its depth the tunnel will have minimal impacts above ground, apart from the portals and shafts. The remainder of the infrastructure is located on private land.	-
4.23	AM: Enquired about the engagement with the community at the Smithfield Dam site.	DH: Provided feedback on meetings held with the Traditional Authorities to date. The local community has been informed of the project through dedicated members of the Feasibility Study team.	-
4.24	AC: Where will the labour be housed? Expressed concern over the possible influx of people in the area.	DH: Labour accommodation still needs to be confirmed. At Smithfield Dam the labour will more than likely be housed on site. KB: At Spring Grove Dam provision was made for an office where people could raise any queries, such as the availability of accommodation.	-
4.25	KM: When will a relocation plan be in place?	DH: We first need to identify all the dwellings that are located in the dam basin that will need to be relocated and then engage with the affected parties. The Relocation Plan will form part of the EIA.	-
4.26	PR2: Are the communities around Smithfield Dam aware that they will not be able to access the water? These communities do not currently have any water.	HP: The area falls within the Bulwer Dam supply area and there are plans in place to supply these communities with water.	-
4.27	PR2: Large dams have significant impacts on rivers. The uMkhomazi River is one of the last free flowing rivers in KZN. All possible alternatives must be considered before deciding to build a dam. Made reference to report by Kader Asmal. Excessive water loses also need to be managed.	KB: Explained the detailed investigations that accompany the planning of a transfer scheme. In the early 90's DWA already conducted various studies on the water resources to explore the options for supplying water to the Mgeni system. Copies of these reports are available on the project website (http://www.dwa.gov.za/ Projects/uMkhomazi/default.aspx). The Mooi-Mgeni Transfer Scheme: Phase 2, which includes the Spring Grove Dam, was identified as an earlier intervention to fulfil	DH

No.	Question / Statement	Response	Action
		the interim water requirements of the Mgeni system. Other options to satisfy the water demands, such as desalinisation, are also being investigated. DH: The Scoping Report will include a section on the previous investigations that were undertaken which lead to the eventual identification of the transfer scheme.	
4.28	PR2: Stakeholders need to be engaged as early as possible in the planning process of large dams.	KB: Stakeholder engagement was undertaken during the previous phases of the project lifecycle.	-
4.29	IL: Have the impacts from siltation to the dam's storage capacity been investigated?	HP: Confirmed that this forms part of the Feasibility Study.	-
4.30	TT: Noted loss of storage capacity in other dams due to siltation.	-	-
4.31	TT: Questioned the need for the dam if the impact to the population from HIV/Aids is taken into consideration.	KB: Water demand calculations consider all necessary factors.	-

5 WAY FORWARD & CLOSE

DH thanked all parties present for their attendance and participation. All attendees were requested to forward their comments to Nemai Consulting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12H30.

APPENDIX **A**

COPIES OF PRESENTATIONS