



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROJECT RESERVE DETERMINATION STUDY FOR SELECTED SURFACE WATER, GROUNDWATER, ESTUARIES, AND WETLANDS IN THE F60 AND G30 CATCHMENT WITHIN THE BERG-OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA: WP11340.

MEETING : MINUTES OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING NO. 1

VENUE : MS TEAMS

TIME : 10:00 – 13:00

DATE : 26 JANUARY 2022

Item	Description	Action																												
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairperson, Ms Ndileka Mohapi, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. It was requested that a recording of the meeting be made, no objection was made. 	PSP																												
2.	<p>Attendance/Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A round of introduction was done. Attendees and apologies are listed below. <p>Attendance Register</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Designation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Ndileka Mohapi (DM)</td> <td>DWS Chief Director: Resource Directed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Khoza Philani (KP)</td> <td>DWS Groundwater Reserve Determination</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Barbara Weston (BW)</td> <td>DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Dana Grobler (DG)</td> <td>Blue Science</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Toni Belcher (TB)</td> <td>Blue Science</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Gladys Makhado (GM)</td> <td>DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Bheki Cele (BC)</td> <td>DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Tovhowani Nyamande (TN)</td> <td>DWS Source Directed Studies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Callum Beattie (CB)</td> <td>Cape Nature – Landscape Unit Cederberg Chair: Verlorenvlei Forum</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10. Felicity Strange (FS)</td> <td>Friends of Verlorenvlei</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11. Nick Taylor (NT)</td> <td>Friends of Verlorenvlei</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12. Louisa</td> <td>Krom Antonies WUA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13. Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss (MLS)</td> <td>DWS Western Cape – Resource Protection</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Designation	1. Ndileka Mohapi (DM)	DWS Chief Director: Resource Directed	2. Khoza Philani (KP)	DWS Groundwater Reserve Determination	3. Barbara Weston (BW)	DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination	4. Dana Grobler (DG)	Blue Science	5. Toni Belcher (TB)	Blue Science	6. Gladys Makhado (GM)	DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination	7. Bheki Cele (BC)	DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination	8. Tovhowani Nyamande (TN)	DWS Source Directed Studies	9. Callum Beattie (CB)	Cape Nature – Landscape Unit Cederberg Chair: Verlorenvlei Forum	10. Felicity Strange (FS)	Friends of Verlorenvlei	11. Nick Taylor (NT)	Friends of Verlorenvlei	12. Louisa	Krom Antonies WUA	13. Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss (MLS)	DWS Western Cape – Resource Protection	All
Name	Designation																													
1. Ndileka Mohapi (DM)	DWS Chief Director: Resource Directed																													
2. Khoza Philani (KP)	DWS Groundwater Reserve Determination																													
3. Barbara Weston (BW)	DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination																													
4. Dana Grobler (DG)	Blue Science																													
5. Toni Belcher (TB)	Blue Science																													
6. Gladys Makhado (GM)	DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination																													
7. Bheki Cele (BC)	DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination																													
8. Tovhowani Nyamande (TN)	DWS Source Directed Studies																													
9. Callum Beattie (CB)	Cape Nature – Landscape Unit Cederberg Chair: Verlorenvlei Forum																													
10. Felicity Strange (FS)	Friends of Verlorenvlei																													
11. Nick Taylor (NT)	Friends of Verlorenvlei																													
12. Louisa	Krom Antonies WUA																													
13. Melissa Lintnaar-Strauss (MLS)	DWS Western Cape – Resource Protection																													

	14. Zanne Brink (ZB)	Cape Nature – Landscape Unit Matzikama	
	15. Kwazikwakhe Majola (KM)	DWS Groundwater Reserve Determination	
	16. Rafieka Johaar (RJ)	DWS Western Cape: Berg-Olifants CMA	
	17. Bentley Engelbrecht (BE)	DWS Western Cape: Resource Protection	
	18. Shaddai Daniel (SD)	WC Regional Office	
	19. Wilna Kloppers (WK)	DEA&DP – Pollution and Chemicals Management	
	20. Angila Joubert (AJ)	Berg River Municipality: Environment office	
	21. Brian Dyson (BD)	DWS Western Cape: Groundwater	
	22. Ashton van Niekerk (AvN)	DWS Western Cape: Groundwater	
	23. Thembisa Torch (TT)	DWS Western Cape: Berg-Olifants CMA	
	24. Jacobus Smit (JS)	Sandveld Bewarings Komitee, en Moutonshoek Beskermede Gebied	
	25. Danne Joubert	Cederberg Municipality	
	26. Grenville White (GW)	Friends of Verlorenvlei	
	27. Bheki Cele (BC)	DWS Surface Water Reserve Determination	
	28. Luke Metelerkamp (LM)	Friends of Verlorenvlei	
	29. Mellisa Naicker (MN)	DEA&DP	
	30. Rassie Nieuwoudt (RN)	DWS Western Cape: Berg –Olifants CMA	
	31. Tendai Makombe (TM)	DWS Planning: Reconciliation Strategies	
	32. Stanley Nzama (SN)	DWS Groundwater Reserve Determination	
	33. Charles Malherbe (CM)	West Coast District Municipality	
	34. Jackie/Bennie	Krom Antonies WUA	
	Apologies		
	1. Dr G Cilliers	DFFE: Biodiversity & Coastal Research	
	2. Caren George	DEA&DP: Biodiversity & Coastal Management: SD Coastal Management	
	3. Adaora Okonkwo	DWS Water Resources Classification	
	4. Lebogang Matlala	DWS Water Resources Classification	
	5. Yakeen Atwaru	DWS Reserve Determination	
	6. Pierre de Villiers	Cape Nature: Estuaries	
	7. Elandi Snyman		
	8. L. Wessels		
	9. Jenny Pashkin	DWS Planning: Reconciliation Strategies	
	10. Jannie Strydom		
	11. Pierre Smith	Krom Antonies WUA	
3.	Approval of the agenda		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘PSC Membership’ was added to the agenda under ‘Item 11. General’ • The agenda was accepted with the addition. 		

4.	Introduction:	
4.1	<p>Background to the Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC provided a background presentation to the project. A summary is provided below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Study area: G30 and F60 Catchments ○ Study term: 24 Month ending May 23 ○ Service provider: Blue Science ○ Previous related studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prelim Reserve for the Olifants-Doorn Catchment in 2006 - Preliminary Sandveld Reserve in 2003 - Olifants Doorn Classification and RQOs gazetted 2016 - Olifants Doring Reserve gazetted 2017 - Final Olifants Doring Reserve gazette 2018 Exclude G30 ○ Why the study? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The F60 and G30 Catchments were largely excluded in previous studies and the previous work believed to be inadequate for Ramsar site protection. In addition, groundwater in the catchments is being over-abstracted and impacting on surface water ecosystems; - The previous Reserve was undertaken using early methods; - No hydrological modelling was used and thus the determination was of low confidence; - Peatland wetlands in the catchments require additional protection by addressing surface and groundwater interaction. 	
4.2	<p>Purpose of the PSC meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the PSC meeting is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the study and team ○ Exchange technical expertise, knowledge, information and data for the study ○ Facilitate communication on the project 	
4.3	<p>Role of the Project Steering Committee Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Project Steering Committee is to promote the co-operative governance • Members are nominated to represent an organisation • Members are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review documents and share information; ○ Assist in scenario sections and water use information; and ○ Facilitate communication and participation in the project. 	
5.	<p>Introduction of the PSP Study Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a complicated study with the need for a team of various experienced team members. • Team members will join the PSC when their respective deliverables need to be presented. • Smaller task teams will be formed to address discipline issues that may need more information. • Existing forums need to be used as much as possible for communication • 2 External peer Reviewers will review the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface water reviewer ○ Groundwater reviewer 	

6.	<p>Presentation of the Study, including the various deliverables and the expected time frames (important for comment periods)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG and TB presented an overview of the study. The presentation is attached for further information. • NM raised the issue of availability of data as a concern and limitation to the study. • MLS responded that the region would particularly encourage interaction with the study team. • TB replied that DWS is part of the study team as are PSC members. The study would allow for various opportunities for capacity building and data sharing. • NM indicated that involvement on the project should be through the DWS Project manager. Capacity building opportunities must be approved and should not entail more cost to the project. Capacity building must specifically be to skill staff to implement the Reserve in the area. • TT indicated that surface monitoring is being undertaken in the study area and the results have been provided to the PSP. The WMS data for 2021/2022 will also be shared with GM. • DG raised the issue of lines of communication and capacity building. The project team will communicate on the project via DWS Project Manager. • DG provided the Project Programme (included in the attached presentation). • DG reiterated that in terms of the level of confidence associated with the Reserve determination, it is the Minister that makes a decision based on the level of confidence of the results of the reserve determination study. The project team will make recommendations in terms of the confidence level. The gazette Reserve must then be enforced. 	<p>TB</p> <p>TT</p>
7.	<p>Comfort break till 11h45</p>	
8.	<p>Open floor for discussions and questions (based on point 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM asked what raw data is needed for the groundwater reserve and for surface water allocations? • DG responded that the data being used for the Water Resources updates for hydrology will be based on rainfall data and that the study will look at natural and present-day flows. Certain assumptions will need to be made regarding groundwater/surface water interaction and contributions. Next task on the programme is to look what data is needed and what we have. • NM indicated that for the project water resource classes and RQO's exist. DWS is looking into an update of SA PES and EI&ES 2012 assessments. There is also a review of the status of water resources. The WRC project will comprise multiple teams. Once the Reserve is gazetted, it must be implemented. • CM responded that data (historic and current) is probably the most important informant to the study. • BW indicated that the PES/EI&ES will need to obtain data from all studies in the right format. 	<p>PSP team</p>
9.	<p>Gap analysis and sources of information (Link with points 4.2 and 4.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG reiterated that the study is not a water use audit and is not to assess water use. If present day water availability in the catchments is lower than 	

	<p>the EWR, DWS will need to look at water use. The project now needs to look at “What do we need, what do we have and what / where are the gaps?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN indicated that DWS WC hopes the outcome of the project will give a Reserve that can be implemented. There must be monitoring of flow, otherwise the study is a theoretical exercise. There must be data to back recommendations and comments. • NM agreed DWS must monitor if the RQO’s and EWRs are being achieved. The study outcomes must be implemented, and this requires monitoring to see the trends. • DG indicated that at the seven EWR sites, there will be surveyed sections that could be used into the future to measure compliance with EWRs. Operational rules could be compiled, that if flow drops below a certain point, abstraction should be reduced. Extrapolated nodes can also be created, and cross sections surveyed and rated for future monitoring of EWR compliance. • TB indicated that a discussion has been held with the VIGTT to help address information gaps and facilitate information and data contributions. A gaps analysis report is being compiled for input from the PSC. 	<p>PSP team</p> <p>PSP team</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Line of communication within the Department and PSP’s (Introduction of DWS project team)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM presented a slide on the project communication. Communication should preferably through emails and meetings. Communications should take place through herself as the study manager to Gladys (with support from BC for Surface water and KP for groundwater). BW is the overall DWS manager for the study. • AN raised the issue of distribution of groundwater data and requested guidance from GM in this regard. GM indicated she would provide feedback. • TM asked about the sharing of project documents. GM indicated that the project would use links provided on RDM website. • TB supported using the link to make sure documents distributed are the version approved by DWS. • NM indicated that the links have been provided in BID. 	<p>GM</p> <p>GM</p>
<p>11.</p> <p>11.1</p>	<p>General</p> <p>PSC Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG stated that the PSC must steer the project. Invitations have been sent to the various organisations identified as being important to the project. These organisations must ensure a representative is nominated and attends or an alternative should attend. • NM asked if there are organisations not presented. • DG indicated that Potato SA was approached and will attend the meetings in the future. • NM asked DWS should assist with ensuring representation. A letter could be sent from DWS to request attendance. • DG indicated that DoA is also not attending, but had made apologies. • NM asked that a list be sent to DWS of organisations to invite. • ZB indicated that Matzikama Municipality was also not present. • DG responded that he would check if they had been invited. 	<p>DG</p> <p>DG</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS asked if Civil Society was also represented on the PSC. • NM responded that a representative or an alternative from each organisation that had a role to play in the project should attend. 	
12.	<p>Frequency of PSC Meetings and Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG indicated that there were three more PSC meetings for the project and that these should be timed with project milestones. • RN asked about the formation of Sub-Committees. • DG responded that there was a Project Management Committee. Sub-committees would be formed as needed to address aspects such as hydrology; surface water; groundwater and representatives invited to attend their sub-committees. Set-up of these committees would be first discussed with the project manager. • DG indicated that PSC Meetings should take place in the following months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June/July 22 – PSC 2 ○ Sept/Oct 22 – PSC 3 ○ Nov/Dec 22 – PSC 4 • NM commented that it would probably be better for the last meeting to be held in January 2023. • DG responded that the proposed dates will be distributed. • GM will communicate contributions required for task teams and make documents available from the link. • RN and SD requested that the PSC future dates be provided as soon as possible. • FS indicated that she was impressed with meeting and was feeling optimistic for 1st time in 10 years that concerns for the Verlorenvlei would be addressed. • TM asked if the Inception report closed for comment. • GM responded that it was finalized in December. 	<p>DG GM</p> <p>PSP and GM</p>
13.	<p>Closure The meeting was closed at 13:00 by the chair.</p>	