

# Gauteng Wetland Forum (GWF) Minutes

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

Development Bank of Southern Africa

10h00 – 13h00



ISSUES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<b>1. Welcome</b> The Chairperson, Garth Barnes welcomed everyone to the meeting	G Barnes
<b>2. Introduction of attendances</b> Attendance register was circulated (please refer to the attendance register- appendix 1)	All
<b>3. Apologies</b> The following people sent their apologies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Jane Eagle –The City of Johannesburg</li><li>2. Jaco Venter – Geosciences</li><li>3. Rens Botha - DWA</li><li>4. David Kleyn - DAFF</li><li>5. Ian Bradin – NSS-SA</li><li>6. Alex Mputle – GDARD, SBR</li><li>7. Wayne Sinclair – Sundowner Adventures</li></ol>	All
<b>4. Reading and adoption of the previous minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted with some corrections made.</li></ul>	All
<b>5. Additions to the Agenda</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5.1. WWD 2010</li><li>5.2. Non functionality of co-operative governance</li><li>5.3. Situation in the Haartebeespoort Dam</li></ol>	A Phaliso P Fairall B Dehning
<b>6. AGM Report: Chairman’s report</b> The 2009 Chairperson gave a report back of the GWF 2009 activities and he highlighted the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the GWF was able to meet 6 times Meeting</li><li>• Various presentations that were presented at our meetings</li><li>• Filed trip/visit that was organized in Rietvlei Nature Reserve</li><li>• The National Wetland Indaba 2009 that was held in Langebaan, Western Cape Province</li><li>• Disseminating information to various stakeholders – words on wetland</li><li>• All our meetings centralized at same meeting venue (The Development Bank of Southern Africa, in Midrand</li><li>• GWF went on line</li><li>• Published two articles</li></ul>	G Barnes

# Gauteng Wetland Forum (GWF) Minutes

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- Proactive and wetland education and training – educational priorities.

## 7. Election of Office Bearers

The following officials were elected to serve on the GWF Management Committee:

- a) Department of Water Affairs - Joyce Lekoane
- b) GDARD, Nature Conservation - Siyabonga Buthelezi
- c) Local Authorities representatives - Deryck Day (Ekurhuleni Metro) & Jane Eagle (The City of Johannesburg)
- d) NGO representatives – Christine Mentzel (EWT) & Garth Barnes (WESSA) –
- e) SANBI & Department of Environmental Affairs - Thomani Manungufala (SANBI)
- f) GDARD, SRM - Jabulani Siyaya.
- g) Department of Agriculture - David Kleyn (DAFF)
- h) Independent - Antoinette Bootsma (Limosella Consulting)
- i) Garth Barnes (WESSA), Bismark Mashau (GDARD) and Marc de Fontaine (Rand Water) were nominated to be elected for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. The management committee will elect them in its first sitting before the next GWF meeting.

S Buthelezi

## 8. Brainstorming: GWF 2010 Objectives

- The Chairperson, Garth, led the Forum members in brainstorming on where they want the forum to be in 2010 in terms of vision and objectives.
- The following four (4) key areas for 2010 were identified and discussed. These issues will have to be addressed by each sub-committee (4) should feed into the 2010 objectives:
  - (i) Training and Education (**Chairperson: Marian Laserson?**)
    - Members: Bismark, Jabu, Siya, EWT Staff.
    - Offering wetland course to professional like engineering s and /or architecture.
    - Need to sort out issue of accredited course and linking with tertiary institution.
    - Need to secure sponsorship for a five day wetland course in order to reduce the cost.
    - Identify the needs for such courses within different stakeholders.
    - Should try to make sure that the courses is easily accessible
    - Dr. Johan van Walls and Piet-Louis will take the accreditation with the University of Pretoria forward. This is an effort to ensure that Wetland studies are mainstreamed in University of Pretoria qualifications so as to get endorsement.
    - Marian has volunteered to help in the organization of the Yebo Gogga educational programme.

All

# Gauteng Wetland Forum (GWF) Minutes

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

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- GWF should be a dissemination hub for other courses.
- (ii) Marketing and Awareness (Chairperson: Garth Barnes)
- Members: Garth Barnes, who else?
  - Visual information for wetlands awareness is important and we should therefore try and use the Google photos to raise wetland awareness.
  - We should distribute and report all what we have been able to achieve to our stakeholders.
  - The Forum to be more visual into raising awareness i.e. picture dissemination (Marc); website use and promotion (push vs. pull technique); people want something to take away from meetings and have output (Andrew).
  - Google Photos: upload trashed wetlands.
  - Flag that Google has been updated? Like IAIA
  - Use Words on Wetlands to pick up relevant issues of the month.
  - Members of the Forum should be encouraged to do some speaking at garden clubs (i.e. Marian).
  - Invite local newspaper correspondents to the meeting.
  - We should continue organizing the World Wetland Day events.
  - Paul Fairall's Monthly Wetland Escapades.
- (iii) Wetland Database management (Chairperson: Andre)
- Members: Marc, Ant, Deryck, Siya, Namhla, Christine.
  - Try to find out if they are other database from other organization (such as SANBI, GDARD etc) that are easily accessible
  - We should also ensure that we standardize data
  - Rand Water will continue to support the Forum (GWF)
  - Standardise data (Andre).
- (iv) Wetland in crisis: Enforcement, prosecution and watchdog role.(Chairperson: Siyabonga Buthelezi)
- Members: Paul, Jane (CoJ), Garth (WESSA), Benedict, Deryck (Ekurhuleni), EWT? BLSA, Johannes (Emfuleni), Joyce (DWA).
  - Allocate adequate time in our meeting for wetland in crisis item
  - Need to improve, strengthen and co-ordinate government activities to do more work in wetland conservation and prosecution. Should encourage government officials to do feedbacks for the identified wetland in crisis

# Gauteng Wetland Forum (GWF) Minutes

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

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- Should ensure that case studies are presented and discussed in our meetings
- Government officials should be encouraged to get advices from wetland specialist and/or expert when they encounter problems related to wetlands. The Forum should also provide expertise to government departments.
- Allocate more time in the GWF meetings for feedback (Sya)
- Can we feedback before the GWF meetings? (Marc)
- Co-ordination of government stakeholders; we need to ensure that those pathways are activated and then follow up thereafter (PL); choosing battles due to amount of wetlands out there in the province and ltd capacity
- Align *Harties* issues with this subcommittee.
- Create a database of photos, transgressions, follow ups, feedbacks etc (Retief)
- Construction of database is important for feedback as part of the summary document
- Focus on one wetland to save and cross pollinate with the other sub-committee (WfWet Quaternary priorities guide sub committee)

## 9. Additions to the Agenda

### 9.1. WWD 2010

- Angie reported that The WWD 2010 hosted by Gauteng Province will be held at the Rietvlei Nature Reserve on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010 from 09h00 – 14h00

### 9.2. Non-functionality of co-operative governance

- Paul Fairall raised his dissatisfaction with regard to the inability by various governmental departments to deal with complaints relating to threatened wetlands he had reported. He mentioned that they are failing to save a single wetland. He was advised to contact the relevant Sub-committee (Wetlands In Crisis) for more detailed feedbacks on specific reported wetlands.

### 9.3. Situation in the Haartebeespoort Dam

- Bob Dehning has reported that millions of liters of sewage water is flowing into the Haartebeespoort Dam
- Bob has requested that the Forum should contact the relevant person in order to find a solution.

# Gauteng Wetland Forum (GWF) Minutes

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

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- Garth advised Bob that he would await further information from John Wesson (WESSA) who is very involved with the Harties Remediation Project Team.
- The Forum has requested him to give a feedback/presentation of the situation in our next Forum.

Next meeting:

Venue: Development Bank of Southern Africa

Time: 10h00 – 13h00

Dates:

1. 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (The City of Joburg to provide snacks)
2. 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (Rand Water Foundation to provide snacks)
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010, Short meeting and site visit, (Macceferri to provide snacks)
4. 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 (GDARD to provide snacks)
5. 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (SANBI to provide snacks)

## Appendix 1: Attendance Register

Name	Organisation
1. Alan Cochran	Golder Associates
2. Andrew Barker	ABDC/Kliprivierberg Conserving
3. Angie Phaliso	Rand Water Foundation
4. Antoinette Bootsma	Limasella Consulting
5. Bismark Mashau	GDARD
6. Bob Dehning	GCSA
7. Deryck Day	Ekurhuleni Metro
8. Florah Mamabolo	Dept of Water Affairs
9. Freddie Letsoko	Coj
10. Garth Barnes	WESSA
11. Happy Baloyi	GDARD
12. Jabulani Siyaya	GDARD
13. Johan van der Waals	Terrasoil Science

# Gauteng Wetland Forum (GWF) Minutes

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 14. Joyce Lekoane          | Dept of Water Affairs       |
| 15. Justice Ndohe          | Emfuleni Local Municipality |
| 16. Keita Hoffmann         | Emfuleni Local Municipality |
| 17. Marc de Fontaine       | Rand Water                  |
| 18. Marian Laserson        | Jukskei Forum               |
| 19. Nonhlanhla Mnisi       | Ekurhuleni Metro            |
| 20. Norma Sharratt         | Wetland Consulting          |
| 21. Paul Fairall           | Emifula                     |
| 22. Piet-Louis<br>Grunding | IMCG                        |
| 23. Retief Grobler         | Imperata Consulting         |
| 24. Riana Panaino          | Golder Associates           |
| 25. Siyabonga<br>Buthelezi | GDARD                       |
| 26. Tebogo Nkadimeng       | GDARD                       |

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