

Appendix J: Other information

J₁ – Wetland forum minutes
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Mpumalanga Wetland Forum Minutes of the Meeting

Held: 17 August 2012, 10h00

Venue: Middelpunt Farm, Belfast

Issues	Responsible Person
<p>1. Welcome André Beetge welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Peter Arderne for providing the venue.</p> <p>2. Attendance <i>2.1 Present</i> See attached attendance register.</p> <p><i>2.2 Apologies</i> Glenn Ramke Christie Garland André Steenkamp Anton Lindström Paul Meulenbeld Patrick Khoza Hennie Laas</p> <p>3. Acceptance of Agenda The agenda for the meeting was adopted.</p> <p>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting <i>4.1 Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting</i> The following correction was made to the minutes of the previous meeting: Page 3 – correcting the name of Altus Lotter. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Peter Arderne and seconded by Ursula Franke.</p> <p><i>4.2 Action Items</i> Actions arising from the previous minutes: 1. The updating of the database is ongoing. Members leaving the Forum should inform André Beetge in order for him to remove their details from the database. 2. Contributions to the MWF newsletter are ongoing. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact André Beetge and Charmaine Uys. It was suggested that Anton Lindström write an article regarding his involvement with the BHP Billiton mine in Middelburg. Hein Geldenhuys suggested that his department write an article about a project in KaNyamazane. Gavin Cowden also suggests that an update should be done and included in the next newsletter regarding the Section 49 application in Wakkerstroom. 3. The use of the MWF banners by Forum members remains ongoing. Should any</p>	<p>ALL MEMBERS</p> <p>ALL MEMBERS</p> <p>Anton Lindström Hein Geldenhuys</p>

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forum member wish to use the MWF banners, please contact Gavin Cowden.	ALL MEMBERS
4. All MWF members should please register on the Wetland Portal of SA Discussion Forum.	ALL MEMBERS
5. MWF to contribute to the National Prosecuting Authorities Newsletter.	Paul Meulenbeld
6. Hannes Marais from MTPA has developed a comprehensive field form that is compatible with the NWI field form. Hannes Marais to send the form to André Beetge.	Hannes Marais & André Beetge
7. According to Charlotte Nkosi there is a large environmental career guidance gap in schools in Mpumalanga and perhaps the WG could assist with identifying bursaries, internships and skills development programmes. This matter is still ongoing even though it was discussed at the WG meeting held in Ermelo in January.	Charlotte Nkosi
8. MWF members to please send through all EIAs received to Ursula Franke and copy André Beetge. Should you know if the EIA falls within a sensitive area please flag this for Ursula Franke and André Beetge with reasons as to why. Reports can be forwarded to Gavin and he will circulate it.	ALL MEMBERS
9. The MWF Wetland Inventory Working Group will compile a work plan explaining the links between national and provincial initiatives and the provincial database, future mapping plans and civil society education and awareness raised. The WG will then raise funds for database management. Hannes Marais & André Beetge will discuss this matter and also approach Mervyn Lotter for his involvement.	André Beetge & Hannes Marais
10. Regarding the mining applications for the Wakkerstroom area, there was a notice to declare the area in terms of Section 49, but since then nothing has happen. Any information regarding the declaration must please be forwarded to André Beetge & Ursula Franke. It was mentioned that another site visit would be held during the coming week with the regional head of DMR. Ursula Franke was asked to post an update on the situation on the Wetland's Portal.	ALL MEMBERS
11. If members are posting topics for discussion on the portal, André Beetge should be copied so that he is aware of it and it can be highlighted to other members. The portal is also an opportunity to advertise for consultants/service providers of which there is only one advertisement at the moment.	Ursula Franke
12. Members are urged to report any destruction of wetlands and post photos as evidence on the wetland portal after which the discussion site on the portal should be used. All information and evidence regarding the destruction of wetlands should also be reported to the Monitoring & Compliance WG. It was also suggested that in the case of reporting such cases, members should use the reporting template that is available on the Wetland's Portal.	ALL MEMBERS
13. Members are requested to fill in the information they know/have on the Wetland Inventory Data forms.	ALL MEMBERS
14. Interested members can contact Ursula Franke regarding the Steenkampsberg Environmental Initiative as the next meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2012 at Middelpunt Farm.	ALL MEMBERS
15. Gavin Cowden will circulate the minutes of the planning session held at Loskop Dam. Task members are requested to become involved and indicate to which Portfolio they can be of assistance. This matter will be discussed in detail during the next AGM.	Gavin Cowden ALL MEMBERS

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<p><i>9.4 Wetland Information requested by Eskom (Adeline Manake)</i> Adeline Manake requested a status of wetlands report from the forum with regards to the location and status of the various wetlands within the province. André Beetge indicated that the forum can provide Eskom with a link to download the information. He also stated that Eskom can get the requested information from the SANBI website. Gavin Cowden also indicated that he will forward her the electronic links to access the information. André Beetge said that it would be good in she can feed into the WG dealing with the wetland inventory. Charmaine Uys said that Adeline should contact Mervyn Lotter from the MPTA for further information regarding the work done by MPTA on wetlands.</p>	<p><i>Gavin Cowden</i></p>
<p><i>9.5 eMakhazeni Environmental Management Framework (Chris Foster)</i> Chris Foster enquired about the status of the eMakhazeni Environmental Management Framework (EMF). Gavin Cowden responded by saying that the framework has been gazetted. But as far as it being used to oppose planned land use, it does not appear to have any legal standing, however it does have to be considered in the decision making process. The legal standing of the document is still unclear and clarity needs to be given. Gavin Cowden indicated that he will try and find out exactly what the legal standing of the environmental framework is. In case Gavin Cowden does get new information regarding this, he will let Chris Foster know.</p>	<p><i>Gavin Cowden</i></p>
<p><i>9.6 Bird identification course in Chrissiesmeer (Ursula Franke)</i> Ursula Franke announced that the bi-annual bird identification course will be held on 27 October 2012 in Chrissiesmeer. The training will focus on the identification of water birds and anybody interested in attending the course can contact Ursula Franke directly. Ursula also requested the MWF banners for the day. Ursula Franke will send the information regarding the course to Gavin Cowden and he will circulate it to the forum members. A maximum of 25 people for the course are accepted @ R120 for the day (incl. talks, birding trip and lunch).</p>	<p><i>Ursula Franke</i> <i>Gavin Cowden</i></p>
<p>10. Date and venue for the next meeting The next MWF meeting is being planned for 16 November 2012 and to be held at Loskop Dam. The meeting will also include the AGM and a bring & braai afterwards.</p>	
<p>11. Site Visit <i>11.1 Introduction – Hannes Marais</i> A wetland was visited on the farm Middelpunt where Hannes Marais gave a brief explanation regarding the delineation of wetlands and what to look for in the soil</p>	

