Appendix J: Other information

J₁ – Wetland forum minutes



Mpumalanga Wetland Forum Minutes of the Meeting

Held: 17 August 2012, 10h00 Venue: Middelpunt Farm, Belfast

Issues Responsible Person

1. Welcome

André Beetge welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Peter Arderne for providing the venue.

2. Attendance

2.1 Present

See attached attendance register.

2.2 Apologies

Glenn Ramke

Christie Garland

André Steenkamp

Anton Lindström

Paul Meulenbeld

Patrick Khoza

Hennie Laas

3. Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

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.

4.2 Action Items

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

ALL MEMBERS

ALL MEMBERS

Anton Lindström Hein Geldenhuys

Responsible Person Issues 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 **ALL MEMBERS** Forum. 5. MWF to contribute to the National Prosecuting Authorities Newletter. Paul Meulenbeld 6. Hannes Marais from MTPA has developed a comprehensive field form that is **Hannes Marais &** compatible with the NWI field form. Hannes Marais to send the form to André André Beetge 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 Charlotte Nkosi 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. 8. MWF members to please send through all EIAs received to Ursula Franke and **ALL MEMBERS** 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. 9. The MWF Wetland Inventory Working Group will compile a work plan explaining André Beetge & the links between national and provincial initiatives and the provincial database, **Hannes Marais** 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. 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 **ALL MEMBERS** 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 Ursula Franke asked to post an update on the situation on the Wetland's Portal. 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 **ALL MEMBERS** members. The portal is also an opportunity to advertise for consultants/service providers of which there is only one advertisement at the moment. 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 **ALL MEMBERS** 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. 13. Members are requested to fill in the information they know/have on the **ALL MEMBERS** Wetland Inventory Data forms. 14. Interested members can contact Ursula Franke regarding the Steenkampsberg **ALL MEMBERS** Environmental Initiative as the next meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2012 at Middelpunt Farm. 15. Gavin Cowden will circulate the minutes of the planning session held at Loskop Gavin Cowden Dam. Task members are requested to become involved and indicate to which **ALL MEMBERS** Portfolio they can be of assistance. This matter will be discussed in detail during the next AGM.

16. Gavin Cowden has received the following quotations (from a Potchefstroom company) for the MWF caps and bumper stickers:

- 50 Caps @ R60 each;
- 100 Caps @ R56 each;
- 200 Caps @ R51 each;
- 70mm bumper sticker (200 units) @ R3 each;
- 80mm bumper sticker (200 units) @ R3 each;
- 90mm bumper sticker (200 units) @ R4 each.

Gavin Cowden also indicated that he will try and get a quote from another company in order to compare the prices.

It was decided by the forum that initially only 50 caps will be ordered and sold for R75 each. Initially 200 bumper stickers will be ordered and then sold for R5 each. A suggestion was made that the caps should be marketed on the Wetland's Portal. All efforts should be made to finalise the procurement of the caps and the stickers in time for the Wetland Indaba to be held in Limpopo from 15-19 October.

17. André Beetge and Hannes Marais to assist Love Shabane with regards to a site along the Mbuzini road where soil degradation is taking place.

5. Feedback

5.1 Chrissiesmeer Crane Festival (Ursula Franke)

The festival was held from 6 – 7 July and attracted approximately 150 visitors. The highlights of the festival included 3 field trips to view the Grey Crowned Crane flock, Piet-Louis Grundling's talk on the Lakes District and the following field trip to Tevreden Pan. Other talks included a range of topics such as frogs, cranes and wildlife rehabilitation. Other field trips included stargazing, bird watching and a night drive where the shy Black-footed Cat was spotted. A Crane Fireplace Concert was held on the Friday evening with Warwick Tarboton as guest speaker and attracted some 240 guests – making it the biggest event held in Chrissiesmeer to date. Due to the huge success and positive feedback received another Crane Festival is on the cards for next year.

5.2 Champagne Farm (André Beetge)

André Beetge and Hannes Marais visited the Champagne Farm site together with Love Shabane. It is an old farm which is now in the process of getting back into production. The total area of the farm is approximately 400ha and the owners/farmers are trying to plant citrus on all 400ha. Upon the site visit it was discovered that the wetland has been drained/ripped. The owners are not happy due to the fact that the actual area suitable for production/planting of citrus is only 50ha. It was clear from historical photo's that unsuitable areas were planted in the past with citrus but the trees died because of it being to wet. It was made clear to the farmers, that should they continue to plant citrus in the wetland, history will repeat itself.

Gavin Cowden

André Beetge & Hannes Marais Issues Responsible Person

6. Working for Wetland Projects

6.1 Update on current projects (André Beetge)

All the Working for Wetland projects are currently working. André Beetge also announced that with immediate effect the Working for Wetlands Programme forms part of the Department of Environmental Affairs' Chief Directorate: Environmental Propgrammes and the programme as a whole is now reporting to Guy Preston (Deputy Director General) and Christo Marais (Chief Director).

7. Items for Adoption

7.1 None

8. MWF Finances

8.1 Feedback from the Treasurer

The current saldo is R 4 226-73. The majority of these funds will be utilised for the procurement of the caps and bumper stickers.

9. General

9.1 Chrissiesmeer Frog Night (Ursula Franke)

The Chrissiesmeer Frogging Night has been expanded into the Chrissiemeer Frog Festival. The festival will take place on 17 November 2012 from early to late. Forum members have been requested to diarise the date and provide assistance to Ursula Franke where possible. A variety of stalls and activities for old and young are being planned. Ursula enquired whether the MWF could man an information stall during the festival. Gavin Cowden & Daleen Strydom indicated their willingness to assist with the stall and putting up the banners. There will also be a talk, frog hunt and dinner with a cost of R180 per person. Ursula Franke is to send the details of the festival to Gavin Cowden. Gavin Cowden will forward the information to all forum members.

9.2 Representation on the Mkhondo Forum (Joseph Mabunda)

Joseph Mabunda attended the Mkhondo forum recently. The forum consists of stakeholders involved in the water sector. He requested that the MWF should start attending the Mkhondo forum on a regular basis. The MWF could be and important stakeholder with the Mkhondo forum because of all the mining issues within the Mkhondo District. Joseph Mabunda will send the dates and venues for the Mkhondo Forum meeting to André Beetge for circulation to all members.

9.3 EnviroNews (Hein Geldenhuys)

Hein Geldenhuys stated that if anybody needs a wetland PowerPoint presentation on short notice, they can contact him. His office also get the latest EnviroNews newsletter and anybody interested in receiving this newsletter can contact Hein so that he can distribute to those interested via e-mail. It was suggested that those who are interested in receiving the EnviroNews newsletter should send Hein an e-mail and state you are interested in receiving the newsletter. Gavin Cowden indicated that he will distribute an example to the forum members.

ALL MEMBERS

Gavin Cowden & Daleen Strydom

Joseph Mabunda André Beetge

ALL MEMBERS

Gavin Cowden

Issues **Responsible Person** 9.4 Wetland Information requested by Eskom (Adeline Manake) Adeline Manake requested a status of wetlands report form 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 Gavin Cowden 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 MTPA for further information regarding the work done by MPTA on wetlands. 9.5 eMakhazeni Environmental Management Framework (Chris Foster) 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 **Gavin Cowden** 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. 9.6 Bird identification course in Chrissiesmeer (Ursula Franke) 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 Ursula Franke of water birds and anybody interested in attending the course can contact Ursula Gavin Cowden 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). 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.

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

11. Site Visit

11.1 Introduction – Hannes Marais



ATTENDANCE REGISTER

MWF Meeting held on Friday 17 August 2012 at Middelpunt Farm, Belfast at 10:00

Name	Organisation	Telephone	Fax No.	E-mail	Area of Expertise
Peter Arderne	FOSAF	083 457 7478	086 609 9064	mwardern@mweb.co.za	Fish
Gavin Cowden	DEDET	071 541 7783		GCowden@mpg.gov.za	Policies, Guidelines, N&S
Daleen Strydom	DEA-WfW	082 335 8122	086 613 6355	StrydomD2@dwa.gov.za	Aquatic Weeds
Ursula Franke	EWT	083 332 8859		ursulaf@ewt.org.za	Conservation
Hannes Marais	MTPA	082 774 3303		hanneswetlands@gmail.com	Wetlands
André Beetge	SANBI	084 240 2264		A.Beetge@sanbi.org.za	Rehabilitation
Hein Geldenhuys	DEDET	082 898 8192		lenviro@telkomsa.net	Environmental Education
Chris Foster	Komatiland Forests	083 677 0839		cfoster@klf.co.za	Forestry
Oupa Thela	EWR Projects	072 456 0933		oupa@wetlandrehab.co.za	Wetland Rehabilitation
Adeline Manake	Eskom - DX	082 808 4166	086 766 0253	manakea@eskom.co.za	Environmental Management
Charmaine Uys	BirdLife South Africa	082 265 2762		grasslands@birdlife.org.za	Conservation
Soko Mthobisi	DWA	082 658 5280	086 212 1144	sokom@dwa.gov.za	Fish & Macro-invertebrates
JH Mabunda	ICMA	078 456 3402		mabundaj@inkomaticma.co.za	Environment & Culture