

Appendix J₁

WETLAND FORUM MINUTES



MINUTES OF THE LWF MEETING HELD in
Venue: Nylsvlei Nature Reserve
Date : 19 July 2013
Time: 10H30

1. Opening and welcome

The meeting was officially opened with a prayer by Marion Mengell and she also welcomed everybody that attended.

2. Roll call and apologies

Roll call was circulated and the following apologies were forwarded:-

1. Collin Silima

3. Introduction

Everybody introduced himself or herself

4. Reading, Corrections and adoption of the minutes

Minutes were read and adopted with corrections.

5. Matters arising

ITEMS	DELIBERATIONS	RESPONSIBILITY
5.Matters arising	The following matters arose from the previous minutes.	All
5.1 Brief feedback on Indaba	It was said that the 2013 indaba was going to be held Eastern Cape on the third week of October. For more information forum members were told to ask Colin Silima or Piet-Louis Grundling. The money that was left in the 2012 indaba was R25, 000.00 including all expenses that Piet –Louis had incurred that had not been deducted yet. A suggestion was made that the money should sponsor the youth in the Limpopo Province that wanted to go and attend the Indaba. People that wanted to be funded where told that they need to write a motivation on why they should be sponsored. All the people belonging to different departments where excluded from the sponsorship as they just have to write motivation to their departmental heads so that they can be funded. Steve mentioned that the list of departments that have not made payments needed to be produced so that proper follow up can be done. Piet-Louis suggested that there be a focus during the next meeting that is scheduled to be held in Thathevondo about what the LWF is going to feedback at the next indaba.	All
5.2 Finances – Outstanding payments	Financial statement will be issued out as soon as Piet – Louis Grundling is back in the country. He is in Canada and he will be back in May	Silima N.C
5.3 Determining meetings for 2013	Meetings for 2013 were scheduled as follows:- (a) 18/01/'13 - 38 Biccard Street (b) 19/04/'13 – Masanteng	Nkopodi Achieved Nkopodi - Achieved

	<p>(c) 19/07/'13 – Nylsvley</p> <p>(d) 27/09/'13 – Thathevondwe Plantation</p> <p>(e) 25/10/'13 – NWI, Eastern Cape</p> <p>(f) 15/11/'13 – Zebediela Citrus Farm</p>	<p>Collin, Fulufhelo</p> <p>David Neguyuni</p> <p>All</p> <p>SK</p>
<p>5.4 World Wetland Day Celebrations</p>	<p>No updates</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>5.5 Mohlapiitse Wetland</p>	<p>Steven Kgobalale said that the action plan had been drafted and submitted to Collin (the forum) who made amendments and reported that she submitted it to SANBI. Piet-Louis Grundling mentioned that he attended the SANBI planning meeting for 2 days but there was no mention of the action plan. He suggested that people should start taking action and write a formal request that should be submitted to the deputy minister of DEA. The request should not go through Collin as an individual but from the forum. The request should be submitted by hand. Marion volunteered to form part of the team that is going to draft the request. Piet-Louis Grundling volunteered that through his close connections he will submit the letter. The deputy minister was very interested in the wetlands issues and if the formal request was submitted, there might be funding offered by the department.</p> <p>Collin to update the forum on stages where the proposal is.</p> <p><u>UNPD updates</u></p> <p>The forum was invited to attend a celebration in Mohlapiitse (supported by UNDP) marking the conclusion of the third phase of the demarcation of the wetland and the eye of the wetland. This was a</p>	<p>SK</p> <p>P-L.G</p>

	<p>celebration marking the outcome of the work done and the progress of work achieved. Piet-Louis Grundling apologised as he said he is not going to make it because he will be in Germany at that time. Abrina Marokane offered assistance in terms of any plenary meetings required. All people who where interested to go where told to give their names to the mohlapeitse representative that attended the meeting (Zachariah Mampa and Lydia Selane). It was emphasized that the fence was not to exclude the residents from the wetland, but to prevent grazing and cultivating inside the wetland, the community was still going to benefit by harvesting some of the resources that the wetland has to offer.</p> <p><u>Other funding</u></p> <p>It was said that the forum needed to look for funders and Piet-Louis suggested that the minister of Environmental affairs should be considered for funding.</p> <p>Submission of proposal and site visit</p> <p>LWF need to visit the sites and send in their proposal. This will assist SANBI management in decision making on which wetland to be rehabilitated next.</p> <p>Monitoring wetland Programme</p> <p>Fulufhelo Mbedzi ask an assistance of the LWF to assist in selecting the wetland that they need to monitor the effectiveness of wetland rehabilitation, record the objectives out come and success of the rehabilitation. Wetland that needs to be selected are flood plains, valley bottom without a channel</p>	
Environmental pollution	<p><u>Piggery development in Modimolle</u></p> <p>The piggery was said to be situated at the Rhenosterpoort farm +-10km from Bela- Bela. The pig farm was following procedure as the application had been lodged with the local DEA office and preliminary scoping had been offered.</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>FM</p>

	<p>The only problem was that even though the pig farm is following protocol, there was going to be long term effects of cumulative impacts. This is because other people had been intensively farming next to the system in the past 2years, these farmers where extracting water directly from the system by putting in walls to extract the water. LWF members where told to review the report so that they can ensure that everything is according to the required protocol. Piet-Louis Grundling suggested that inspections be done on that area because some farmers may be taking advantage of the system without proper documentation. The forum needed to be active in this matter and report any irregularities as NEMA has a clause that says that one is obliged to report any environmental crimes.</p> <p><u>Volspruit Mine</u></p> <p>This is a mine (open cast) that is proposed to take place 20km South of Mokopane and proposed to mine two adjacent ore bodies for platinum. They are still doing more research and have missed the deadline due to lack of information. The board withdrew the application and is going to re-submit after all relevant information is acquired. The major thing that still needs be done is to determine whether the underlying clay is impervious or not which can only be done after flooding which did not occur during the last summer. There are landowners that are actively involved in the process that need to be notified about the LWF. Waterberg biosphere Reserve and Ernest from Birdlife South Africa also submitted their comments that had not been answered yet. People that where against the mine where encouraged to use the media as a way to fight it. People where reminded not to forget the socio-economic issues that are associated with the mine. There was also another application of a coalmine and uranium in the area and there was a request from forum members to highlight the committee if there are any new developments.</p>	
RAMSAR	LWF members where informed to Google on: “how to nominate a ramsar site”. It was said that Limpopo needed 1 or 2 more Ramsar sites and	ALL

	<p>people needed to nominate them so that the department can clear those sites and categorise them as Ramsar site. Every wetland that was to be nominated needed to have a management plan and if there was no such, the wetland was not going to be classified as a Ramsar site. Private individuals can draft a management plan and the provincial authority approves and takes it further to the national authority. Piet Louis said he was going to invite a person from the national department to give a presentation on how the process works</p>	
Training	<p>One training course of back to basics was already held in January and the one proposed in September was not going to be possible as Piet-Louis Grundling is going to be out of the country. He suggested that the course be done in November after the first rains where people can observe many different wetland species. Piet said that he would prefer to do it at Umklewu as the system is very diverse or even Mhlapetse provided the accommodation is affordable and the area accessible. Steven Khosa from Marakele National Park suggested that the course be done at Marakele and he was willing to negotiate the accommodation rates. All options were open for consideration.</p>	SC
Wetland Task team		
6. NEW MATTERS		
6.1	<p>Before discussion on new matters suggestions were made that the minutes should be elaborative so that any person who picks up the minutes can be able to follow what is happening. The format of the minutes needed to be changed to save resources as there are many gaps that are not utilised and abbreviations that do not make sense.</p> <p>The recent Waterberg biosphere initiative: A brief introduction was given about the Waterberg biosphere reserve. There are 6 biosphere reserves in SA and 3 of them in Limpopo namely Vhembe which is the largest, Waterberg and Kruger to</p>	All

canyons. There are six more biospheres in the pipeline that are going to be nominated in SA. The WBR is a non profit organization that is affiliated with different stakeholders and partners with government. The main aim of the biosphere is to conserve the environment for the long term future while bringing benefits to the communities that leave there. The biosphere is aimed at protecting the wilderness, saving the rhinos, conserving water resources, skills development, environmental education, marketing and branding Waterberg tourism sports.

The new initiative was the expansion of the biosphere so that 80% of the district can be included. The new management plan is looking to include the mountain complex and the Mookgopong caves and most of the Nyl system. This was mainly because no system should be left out because there are all connected through ecosystem. The new management plan had been drafted already to include all proposed areas. The new management plan had already been submitted to different stakeholders and had been approved at the provincial level by the minister, but still had to be approved by UNESCO. Waterberg district has been very supportive of the initiative but the problem was that most spatial plans are not aligned, but motion was already in place to align the spatial plans. Piet-Louis Grundling said that the Working for wetlands needed to prioritise on these important areas.

The expansion of illegal irrigation dam on the farm Vlakfontein 522KR : Friend of Nylsvley sent a letter to request a water licence to be produced but no response yet. The dam appeared to be full but no water flowing. This meant that the possibility was that they were extracting ground water which is detrimental to the Mookgopong residents as there is not enough freshwater for daily usage and they depend on the ground water for survival. Steve Kgobalale was to follow up and give feedback as to what is happening to the forum.

The objection of to the prospecting right application by mogul share investment (pty) Ltd

This was the prospecting right to a coalmine proposed upstream of Mookgopong. 3 applications at 3 farms had been withdrawn and only Rietfontein was left. Waterberg Biosphere Reserve was going to report to the forum on any new development.

WFW: 2 days of planning meeting was held at SANBI and the focus was still on job creation rather than conservation. The project is not moving out of designated areas because of socio economic benefits but the processes needed to be changed in 3 years so that focus can be placed on conservation. Important wetlands like Nyl floodplain and Welgevonden where still in the plan. Commercial lands and farms were excluded due to poor maintenance of structures and vandalism. The project was supposed to move a long time ago from Mutale as interventions that are put in place are destroyed but priority is still given to socio economic needs. In Kruger the focus was still going to be breaking dams, but all in all Limpopo had a budget of 8 million to rehabilitate degraded wetlands. LWF members should be actively involved in the prioritisation of important wetlands for rehabilitation planning. The members where given a task to go and think about important areas whether it be a RAMSAR, biosphere, conservation, commercial area etc. the data that the members had should be brought to the meetings and better prioritization done. Piet-Louis Grundling was going to send a reminder to forum members and also involve municipalities in the planning process.

Department of water affairs wetland task team
Fhulufhelo Mbedzi announced that the task team wanted to find out what they can do to help the forum. It was suggested that DWA give the LWF guidelines on what they want to concentrate on so that the LWF needs can be inline with that. DWA can also sponsor with educational materials for functions such as the upcoming mohlapetse celebrations.

	<p>Another concern was the bass (alien fish) that is coming up on the Bad se loop. Marion wanted to find out what where the procedures in dealing with alien species and which authority should be informed. DEA was the department that this issue should be reported to, but Steve said he was going to follow up on which directory exactly.</p> <p>Presentation by Ernest Retief A new topic was added on the agenda before matters arising from previous minute. It was a presentation by Ernest Retief from Birdlife South Africa (conservation manager Gauteng and Limpopo) about the things that his organization is involved in. Birdlife South Africa is a registered non –profit organization that promotes the enjoyment, study and understanding of wild birds and their habitat. He also mentioned that it was important to conserve birds as they are an important part of the biodiversity. Important Bird Area (IBA) assessment was completed in the Gauteng and in the Limpopo provinces and that Nylsvley was one of the priority areas for conservation. He also mentioned that Limpopo did not have a stewardship programme (a programme that involves working with landowners in a bid to conserve birdlife and in return gaining tourist attraction) but the organization was working towards establishing one.</p>	
7. Date of the next meeting	27 September 2013 – ThatheVondo	David Neguyuni
8. Closure	Closed with a prayer	Mrs. Abrina Marokana

SECRETARY

DATE

CHAIPERSON

DATE