

Appendix J1

WETLAND FORUM MINUTES



Mpumalanga Wetland Forum Minutes of the AGM

Held: 15 November 2013, 11h45

Venue: Middelpunt Farm, Belfast

Issues	Responsible Person
<p>1. Welcome The meeting was officially opened and all attendees welcomed. The forum’s gratitude was expressed towards Peter Ardern for providing the venue.</p> <p>2. Attendance</p> <p><i>2.1 Present</i> See attached attendance register.</p> <p><i>2.2 Apologies</i> Kirsti Garland - BirdLife Chris Vorster – Komatiland Forests Thya Pather Joseph Mabunda – ICMA Charmaine Uys</p> <p>3. Acceptance of Agenda The agenda for the meeting was accepted with the following additions: A presentation by Anton Linström on the current Lakenvlei Wetland Study; Issue with regards to the Newsletter to be discussed.</p> <p>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p><i>4.1 Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting</i> The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted without any changes. Hannes Marais proposed the acceptance.</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 the chairman in order for their details to be removed from the database. 2. Contributions to the MWF newsletter are ongoing. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Hein Geldenhuys. 3. The use of the MWF banners by Forum members remains ongoing. Should any Forum member wish to use the MWF banners, please contact Gavin Cowden.</p>	<p>ALL MEMBERS</p> <p>ALL MEMBERS</p> <p>ALL MEMBERS</p>

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<p>4. MWF caps can be purchased from Don Cater, Gavin Cowden or André Beetge @ R75 each. Postal orders can also be done, but payment must be upfront – add additional R40 for postage. It was suggested that the sale of caps (with a picture) should be advertised in the next newsletter. Licence disks are also available @ R5 each.</p>	ALL MEMBERS
<p>5. This action item has been changed to a standing agenda item. Thus, in future, any threats to wetlands will be discussed under the new standing item on the agenda: “Wetlands in crisis”.</p>	ALL MEMBERS
<p>6. Anyone interested in receiving the EnviroNews newsletter should send Hein Geldenhuys an e-mail (lenviro@telkomsa.net) requesting that you be added to the mailing list and provide him with a current e-mail address.</p>	ALL MEMBERS
<p>7. Hein Geldenhuys reported that a joint Wetlands/Grasslands celebration will take place at Delmas on 11 February 2014. This will be a provincial event and all interested parties are welcome to contact Hein for more information.</p>	ALL MEMBERS
<p>8. It was suggested that the “Riding For Frogs” mountain bike event should rather be driven by the organisers of the Frog Festival, with the full support of the MWF, as they will be the main beneficiaries. Enquiries as to whether Matotoland Ecotourism in Chrissiesmeer is interested and willing to be a driving force of the event has to be done. Ursula Franke to give feedback at next meeting with regards to Matotoland Ecotourism’s level of support as a partner. Gavin Cowden to amend the proposed Riding for Frogs & Wetlands Action List and circulate to MWF.</p>	URSULA FRANKE GAVIN COWDEN
<p>9. MWF members are reminded to forward current/valid contact details of relevant municipal officers to Gavin Cowden for inclusion on forum invitations.</p>	ALL MEMBERS
<p>10. A team of 4 people are involved with the groundtruthing of wetlands within the province. The Chrissiesmeer area as well as the Middle & Upper Olifants areas has been completed. The Komati & Usutu catchments still have to be done. During the groundtruthing process a checklist is completed for each wetland. The biggest constraints experienced during the process are that of access to the wetlands as well as the time involved. This project addresses current gaps in the provincial wetland inventory. This process also shows that a desktop exercise is not sufficient and areas need to be verified on the ground. Hannes Marais requested forum members for any data (shape files) that is available to be forwarded to the groundtruthing team.</p>	ALL MEMBERS
<p>5. Feedback</p>	
<p>5.1 NWI 2013</p>	
<p>The National Wetland Indaba 2013 was held at Cape St. Francis, Eastern Cape. The event was very well organized and very affordable with registration being R700 per person. This year’s event had big sponsors from government’s side (DWA & DEDET) which helped in keeping the registration fees affordable. This year also saw the most attendees at the NWI: 186. The next indaba is to be hosted by Gauteng in 2014.</p>	

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<p>6. Presentations</p> <p><i>6.1 Lankenvlei Wetland Study – Anton Linström</i></p> <p>The aim of the study is to conduct a survey in the bigger Lankenvlei catchment. During the survey, the following are addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delineation of all wetlands; • Integrity of all wetlands; • Wet eco services being developed in all these wetlands; • Classification of all these wetlands; • Threats posed to the wetlands; • Peat land aspect of the wetlands in this area; • The location of the peat in main the wetland body as well as in its tributaries; • Groundwater feeding into wetland areas <p>A threat to the groundwater feeding a wetland is also a threat to that wetland. Water quality assessments are also being done and the official samples should be completed by the end of today. The preliminary assessments clearly show areas with very clean water thus no impacts on the wetland. Biodiversity studies will also be done throughout the catchment – valley bottom feeding streams, depression areas & the main body.</p> <p>7. Working for Wetlands Projects</p> <p><i>7.1 Update on current projects – André Beetge</i></p> <p>Some projects are running ahead of schedule. The estimated time of completion will be the end of January/February 2014.</p> <p>The authorisation process from DEA has been streamlined. Authorization is now done per wetland instead of per structure. Working on Wetlands will be fully incorporated into DEA: NRMP as from 1 April 2014.</p> <p>8. Items for adoption</p> <p><i>8.1 MWF 2014 Priorities</i></p> <p>As discussed during the planning workshop. See the planning workshop minutes for more information on this matter.</p> <p>9. MWF Finances</p> <p><i>9.1 Feedback from Treasurer</i></p> <p>The closing balance of the account as on 15 November 2014 is R 2 117-85. Two separate deposits have been made over the last couple of months due to cap sales. There are still approximately 30 caps in stock. A proposal was made to procure a data projector for the exclusive use of the MWF, but such a purchase is not realistic at the moment, due to the forum’s current financial situation.</p>	

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<p>10. Newsletter</p> <p>Charmaine Uys is unable to continue with the editing of the newsletter. The province's newsletter gets good feedback and thus it was decided by forum to continue with the publishing of the newsletter. The new editor is to gather the articles and the chairman will continue to write a contribution in each newsletter. The biggest challenge is to get the material for the articles. It was suggested that the forum members should submit an article from their respective organizations. Also in an attempt to spread the load, 2 people will be responsible for the newsletter from now on. It was also decided that the number of articles should dictate the length of the newsletter. Working on Wetlands & EWT has committed themselves to provide articles; the River Health Programme indicated that they will submit an article for every 2nd newsletter. If at all possible pictures should accompany articles. Peter Ardern volunteered to do an article on the link between tourism and wetlands. Hein Geldenhuys has volunteered to serve as editor of the newsletter for a year.</p> <p>11. General</p> <p>The following persons have been elected to the various positions:</p> <p>11.1 Election of Chairman: Gavin Cowden</p> <p>11.2 Election of Vice –Chair: Ursula Franke</p> <p>11.3 Election of Secretary: Daleen Strydom</p> <p>11.4 Election of Treasurer: Don Cater will be asked if he is willing to take the position, otherwise André Beetge will assume this position.</p> <p>11.5 Election of contact persons:</p> <p>Wetland Inventory Group: Hannes Marais</p> <p>Awareness Group: Hein Geldenhuys</p> <p>11.6 Newsletter Editor: Hein Geldenhuys</p> <p>11.7 Additional committee member: It was proposed that 2 additional committee members be elected and these should be linked to functions. A representative from the ICMA was recommended and Joseph Mabunda was proposed. Joseph was proposed due to his networking ability. Should he be prepared to serve on the committee, his function would be to focus on membership expansion.</p> <p>12 Dates and venues for the meetings to be held in 2014:</p> <p>28 February – Chrissiesmeer & site visit</p> <p>23 May – Lydenburg (& informal site visit)</p> <p>15 August – Witbank & site visit</p> <p>21 November – Lakenvlei (Planning Session, AGM and Year-end Bring & Braai)</p> <p>13 Closure</p>	



ATTENDANCE REGISTER

MWF AGM held on Friday 15 November 2013 at Middelpunt, Belfast, at 11:45

Name	Organisation	Telephone	E-mail	Area of Expertise
Ursula Franke	EWT	083 332 8859	ursulaf@ewt.org.za	Crane & Wetland Conservation
Anton Linström	Wet-Earth	083 226 1089	wetearth@telkomsa.net	Wetlands
Peter Arderne	FOSAF	083 457 7478	mwardern@mweb.co.za	Fishing / Tourism
Dirk van Wyk	University of the Free State	083 500 9984	dirkie.inc@gmail.com	Wetland Student
André Beetge	SANBI - Working for Wetlands	084 240 2264	A.Beetge@sanbi.org.za	Wetland rehabilitation
Hannes Marais	MTPA	082 774 3303	hanneswetlands@gmail.com	Wetlands
Hein Geldenhuys	DEDET	082 898 8192	lenviro@telkomsa.net	Environmental Education
Gavin Cowden	DEDET	071 541 7783	Gcowden@mpg.gov.za	Environmental Policy & Coordination
Steven Segang	EWT	083 264 6601	steves@ewt.org.za	Community wetland conservation
Daleen Strydom	DEA: Working for Water	082 335 8122	Dstrydom@environment.gov.za	Biocontrol & Aquatic Weeds
Mahlodi Dikgale	DWA	083 274 5990	DikgaleL2@dwa.gov.za	River Health Programme
Andiswa Makam	DWA	082 877 2681	makama@dwa.gov.za	River Health Programme
Mthobisi Soko	DWA	082 658 5280	sokom@dwa.gov.za	River Health Programme
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