



UCPP 7th QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES – 3RD December 2014 – Matatiele

1. WELCOME & PRAYER:

Ms. Joyce Loza from MDTP provided an opening prayer; Nicky McLeod from ERS (co-secretariat) welcomed all, and introduced guest chairperson, Cobus Theron, from EWT.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Please refer to attendance register attached. Members present represented DWS National and Regional, ECPTA, SWC, MDTP, EWT, CSA, LIMA, DEDEAT, INR, WESSA, ERS, MCDCC, Matat Municipality, Talbot & Talbot. Apologies submitted from WS University and UKZN.

3. MATTERS ARISING AND FEEDBACK:

- a. Sinegugu from CSA reported that the CMA business case has been endorsed by new minister and will go ahead next year.
- b. Tsepo from Mehlooding / Freedom challenge reported on the successful Heritage event hosted at Mpharane in September. This is set to become an annual event.
- c. Nolu from CSA reported that the next issue of *Vubuzela* will come out early next year, as it has no separate printing fund and has to be done in conjunction with the *VeePos* print run for Namaqualand which shares its budget.
- d. Joyce from MDTP reported on the Fire Management Collaboration workshop held in Matat in early August: lots of co-operation and consultation has resulted in a final draft of an Integrated Fire Management Plan for the upper catchment. The members agreed that this Plan should be presented at the next quarterly meeting in March.
- e. The workshop for supporting the Bakoena Traditional Authority will be co-ordinated by ERS with relevant members in early 2015.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

Guest chairperson Cobus Theron from EWT provided an overview of the theme of WATER SECURITY, and introduced all the presenters. Previous theme was FIRE, chaired by Lwazi Kuzwayo from Kishugu / FireWise. The presentations from this session will be made available over the website.

5. WATER PLANNING IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD: Dr. Nick King, SWC

Key issues regarding water security in the context of climate change were presented: startling statistics included the more than 1 billion people globally who have insufficient daily water for basic needs, and that global water use is growing at double the population growth rate. World population uses over 6000 km³ of water annually. Need to have some realistic scenarios with coping strategies to assist us with mitigating water scarcity in a changing climate, including building ecosystem resilience.

6. CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR WATER MONITORING: Tembeka Dambuza, WESSA

Tembeka presented the miniSASS programme, a citizen science based monitoring system which builds a national picture of river health trends, and involves all South Africans in understanding and taking action around pollution impacts on water quality. UCPP partners are attending a free WESSA-run miniSASS training day in Matat at CSA offices on 9 Dec – all welcome.

7. **RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION:** Lawrence Mulangaphuma, DWA/DWS Pretoria
Lawrence presented the Department's framework for Resource Quality determination, which helps determine class, which in turn informs management strategies and Resource Directed measures for water security in the various catchments around southern Africa. uMzimvubu resource classification will commence once a service provider is appointed, probably in mid 2015, and the classification exercise will take 24 months. Question posed on if DWS and DEA are collaborating in uMzimvubu resource classification, as the dam has been the big driver for attention to this catchment.
8. **SEDIMENT FINGERPRINTING:** Dr Francois Talbot, Talbot & Talbot Water Laboratories
Dr Talbot presented a fascinating explanation of the technique for tracing nutrients in sediment samples: this assists with identifying sources of erosion (parent material) and pollution in catchments. He is advising UCPP partners on appropriate testing methods and protocols for developing a baseline and trends based on monitoring sediments along the Mzimvubu corridor.
9. **SOURCE2SEA EXPLORATION:** Dr Nick King, and Nicky McLeod (ERS)
This was a follow up presentation on an initiative which is coming to life, involving an investigation of the potential for unlocking assets and opportunities along the Mzimvubu corridor, involving an adventure trail of paddling and hiking the length of the river from source to mouth at Port St Johns. It is being driven by SWC (at the mouth) and ERS (near the source). Hoping to collect water samples to start building a picture of impacts and drivers along the corridor. Will also involve a flight with Ezemvelo plane to film entire corridor, weather permitting. Londi Mbikwana from DWS EC indicated there is previous footage from 2007 which will be great to compare with respect to riparian changes.
10. **PERMACULTURE KEYLINE DESIGN:** Bacela Piet Bosman, Mt Currie Community Development forum
Piet presented some innovative concepts based on water sovereignty, where landscaping works with contour and design to unlock the abundance of the land and resources, using interlinked water storage systems. Principles of far, slow, sink, passive friction provide a framework.
11. **WATER HARVESTING IN CROPLANDS:** Brigid Letty, INR
INR is implementing an agricultural support programme exploring landscaping with contours to optimise on rainfall receipt, using similar concepts to those explained by Piet, in the eastern Cape. Intercropping on old lands and use of rock-based contour lines was explained. Questions included why not leave the areas between land unploughed instead of replanting with another crop such as oats. Pioneer weed species were assisting with revegetation in old damaged lands.
12. **PRESENTATION OF UCPP WEBSITE AND ECORANGER VIDEO:** Tsoanelo Shata (ERS) and Nduduzo Khoza (EWT Ecoranger) presented how to access the new www.umzimvubu.org website set up through CEPF funds on behalf of the partnership.
The EWT ecoranger programme was captured in a very impressive short video which was shared with partners, and Cobus was commended on this great effort to bring youth actively into the conservation economy.
13. **MATATIELE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PERSPECTIVE:** Councillor Robert Thabo Mnika
Cllr Mnika indicated that he is very pleased with the huge level of activity and progress happening with respect to conservation work in the area, and praised the collaborative efforts of the partners. A Lobby Committee has been set up through the Chief Whip's office to convince political level decision makers of the

necessity to protect the upper catchment as a water factory, possibly through declaration of a protected area along the watershed, with biodiversity stewardship agreements with land users and conservation supporters.

Cllr Mnika said the UCPP forum and local NGOS efforts have provided much increased capacity for politicians and officials to tackle sustainability issues more actively. They are feeling more empowered to act with ecosystems as a foundation, rather than seeing 'environment' as an obstacle to development. The council wants to see green investments bear fruit, through prioritising target areas where we can effectively tackle obstacles to such as alien infestation, high silt loads, and water shortages. No more wasteful ineffective implementing which has short term job benefits but potentially negative impacts on ecosystems. He indicated that stewardship training and environmental capacity for traditional leadership and ward committees is essential.

Cobus thanked Cllr Mnika for his long term efforts as an environmental ambassador for the area, recognising the important role he is playing of linking civil society and local governance structures.

Cllr Mnika

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. Reminder of miniSASS training next week Wednesday 10th in Matat – contact Phumeza at WESSA
- b. Green Economy workshop: UCPP is assisting DEDEAT to host thids event tomorrow 4th December at Alfred Nzo District office in Mt Ayliff. All welcome.
- c. Londi said team from DWS is doing river health assessments in uMzimvubu catchment next week 8 – 12th – technical people can join. Zinhle will follow up regarding logistics.
- d. Sinegugu mentioned hike along wild coast from Port St Johns to Coffee Bay from 15 – 19 December which folks can join.

15. NEXT MEETING was set for Wednesday 11th March, same venue.

16. Cobus Theron thanked everyone for participating, and lunch was served. Several gatherings taking place after meeting, including planning source2sea river trip with sampling possibilities.