



(Draft logo)

MINUTES OF 3rd QUARTERLY MEETING HELD AT METHODIST CHURCH, MATATIELE 04/12/2013

Please refer to agenda, as well as attendance register appended.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Chairperson Sinegugu Zukulu welcomed all present (see register at end). Participants represented Firewise, DWA, SANBI, Matatiele Municipality, WSU, SAVEACT, Alfred Nzo District, EWT, Chief Lebanya, Wildlands, ERS AND CSA.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from:

Artwell Chivinge, ECNGOCO; Trevor Hill, UKZN; Piet Bosman from Mt Currie; Julie Clarke, DBSA; Dean Rickets, Mr Spotsi, Nosisa Ndaba from DEDEAT, Mr Soviti from WSU, Joyce Loza from MDTP, Nomtunzi Gqlilitshana, from ANDM.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a. Discussion between DEDEAT and DWA about NEMA regulations for afforestation applications, ROD has expired.

Keep alert to any afforestation applications. Water Affairs is the authority responsible for the water licensing of afforestation applications, while DEDEAT issues RoDs for the change of land use for plantation establishment.

Mr Spotsi attended the Wild Coast planning summit, but unfortunately not here to give us an update, but will request him to send us an update on the resolutions.

- b. EMF for the ANDM awaiting for the approval from the council. Last sitting will be on the 12th December: Basi indicated that they are hoping that the EMF will be approved by the council. Anyone who needs the electronic version of the EMF can contact Mme Sissie for one.
- c. Committee within the district need to work towards an adaptation summit for the district. WSU the key stakeholder can have a conversation with CSA after the meeting.
- d. Logo discussion is on the agenda.
- e. Minutes adopted.

4. ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CMA) FOR UMZIMVUBU TO TSITSIKAMMA WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.

Presentation by Pumla Titus and Siziwe Blie who are driving the CMA establishment function.

DWA establishing 9 CMAs in S.A. and will act as the sector regulator. CMA will perform most of the operational functions currently performed by DWA. National Water Act (section 80 of 1998) delegated certain functions to CMAs. This process is now being rolled out. These functions will be delegated in phases.

Media campaign for public awareness was run, but needs to reach more stakeholders. Made use of newsletter, Radio live reads (RSG, UW, Algoa, Community radios). Consultations intended to inform interested parties of the process and get commentary. Currently drafting 2nd Newsletter to update stakeholders.

Public participation involves engaging, empowering and consulting all stakeholders in Eastern Cape by DWA. Inputs will be documented in the proposal to establish a CMA.

Four stakeholder workshops held in the following venues; Mthatha, GraaffReinet, Port Elizabeth and East London. Poor attendance due to transport challenges and timing, communication, contact details of stakeholders. Further stakeholder workshops to discuss the draft Business Case in 2014.

Planning to have another meeting at Alfred Nzo District Municipality early next year.

Business Case Development

There is a Business Working Group in place, comprising a variety of stakeholders including Tertiary institutions, Government departments, Water utilities, NGOs etc.

Already held one meeting in East London to discuss the terms and references, and Elect the chairperson which is not yet done.

National Steering Committee: forum for 9 regions. Incl DWA, CSOs established CMAs WRC etc.

Regional Steering Committee: Comprises DWA and external stakeholders. To date six meetings held.

CMA task teams:

- Information and Monitoring systems task team
- Water Resource Management function
- Delegation task team
- Finance and viability task team
- Human Resource task team

Role of UCPP in the CMA establishment

Need inputs to the whole process to ensure stakeholder issues included in planning. Membership in the BCWG-BC development. Nicky and Sinegugu are members, can feed commentary through them. Copies of Situational analysis can be accessed via drop box (Siziwe to send) and hardcopies at ERS office.

Situational Analysis summary of CMA presented by Pumla Titus

It used the best information available through a desktop study. Need inputs from people in order to have more detailed and updated information.

Catchment management strategies: recognises the systematic measures impacting on the water management for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.

Ensuring equity: everybody gets water in sufficient quantities over sustained time span.

Wide range of Institutions within the catchment area include:

- Irrigation boards
- Water user associations

- Amatole water Board
- CSOs (civil society organisations)
- Traditional leaders
- Local government

Proposed area includes most of the EC districts, plus small bits of areas in Northwest Province and part of Sisonke District in KZN.

Identified Gaps in information

Status of wetlands

Extent and impact of erosion problems

Evaluation of the extent and impacts of alien plant infestation.

A lot of boreholes in the Eastern Cape not being registered.

In order to develop the Business Case, we need:

Up to date Situation analysis

Assessment of service delivery options

Determine vision objectives

Clear Governance arrangements

Clear Organisational design

Determine financial requirements and structures

Information required:

Policy documents

Water resource

Finances

Human resource

Water quality

Stakeholder contact information.

Output will be a report on the Business Case.

The need for the CMA.

Role and functions, Institutional relationships, corporate for risk, finances, performance, implementation consideration and all this will have to go to the Minister for approval.

Business report, situational report and stakeholder consultation report.

Way forward

The capacity of all partners and institutional is of considerable interest.

Information required to complete analysis which will form part of Business Case

Surplus water creates potential for development

Area is disadvantaged in terms of social economic analysis.

Discussions

Establishment update requested: Stakeholder engagement Workshop was advertised in the News Paper, Radios printing of Newsletters. Still in process of developing a business case.

Question: What is the rationale of driving the whole process of Business Case Development? Too many bodies have been reporting to the Minister hence came up with only 9 CMAs instead of 90 institutions reporting about one resource and associated issues.

Question: In the long term when the CMAs are established what support will they be able to provide to the catchment forums? Suggestion: CMA should be willing to invest resources in rural areas in order to enhance the ecosystem services functioning. People whose land where the resources occur need to be supported to build capacity regarding employment creation to sustain ecosystem services.

WSA and CMA levies must be invested back to take care of water systems, possibly via catchment forums. This is the only way that ecosystem services can be prevented from being degraded. Sinegugu, Dr.Nakin and Nicky to keep collaborating with CMA establishment.

5. UPDATES FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS ON CURRENT AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES: (PPT PRESENTATIONS)

(i) LIMA / INR DEA NRM LUI project at Ntenetyana & Mafube

Alien clearing: Mafube comprising of 2 teams of 15, and 6 clearing teams at Ntenetyana.

Grazing element: 1 team of ecorangers at Ntenetyana, 3 teams at Mafube. Developing grazing management options.

All material cut has been removed by the community.

Community meeting for grazing management plan. Four-season rotational rest.

Identified areas for the summer, supporting the herders financially to manage these areas.

Challenges

Community not happy because of the areas being closed for grazing which are locally managed. Next year will do skill development training in Kwa Zulu Natal, especially erosion rehabilitation.

Using animals as a mechanism for the cleared areas to encourage grass growth back in areas that have been infested by wattle, linking with ideas from ERS/CSA approach

(ii) FIREWISE DEA LUI project & Heritage day, Mpharane

Applied for more funding from next round / call from DEA.

Workers work for four days a week. Using Horse teams for upper catchment areas

Exploring Woodlot management (plantation of energy efficient means). Investigating which trees that can grow better in areas that have been cleared for woodlots for the communities. These trees will be non-invasive plants.

Initiations done by the community especially in summer, they need more firewood yet it has been cleared – need to carefully identify targets for project clearing.

Suggestion: going to the communities before clearing to choose wattle that can be managed for woodlot.

There has been vaccination of horses taking place for the teams working in high altitude areas.

(iii) CSA/ERS DEA NRM LUI project Ward 14 Matatiele

Progress: 40 ha initial cleared. 52 alien clearing employees, and 22 ecorangers employed.

Training: All 52 workers received induction training, First Aid for two members per team, OHS two members per team, Worksite management Course for supervisors and team leaders, Horse care basics and Induction for the 20 Eco rangers.

Planned training skills for 2014 include Life skills, Domestic finances, Fire awareness, Snake handling, Animal health, Plant identification, Herbicide application training.

N.B Need to get grazing land back through alien clearing. Focus is on rangeland restoration not riparian zones. Linking clearing with follow up management by ecorangers and herding plans.

(iv) EWT stewardship

Consolidate ONR to Swartberg area, compiling proposal with ERS, MDTP and CSA to CEPF develop plan for stewardship across upper Umzimvubu zone.

(v) Proposed land Reform in Matatiele - update

About the issue with the land reform moving people from their original land to Cedarville flats, farms are going to be subdivided

Question: Did Department of Land Reform engage with the community that is going to be removed from their land? The area targetted for the new settlement is full of wetlands which is not suitable for settlement. Will not even fix those areas where they are moving people out of.

(vi) Matatiele Mining prospecting applications - update

Mining prospecting in Matatiele process is fishy! The people proposing to mine in areas situated in Matatiele Local Municipality are targeting local communities who have no clue about the application process.

Suggestion: UCPP forum to meet with all the headmen, councillors, chiefs in Matatiele and Mt Fletcher because these people are trying to steal community ideas illegally because there is no public participation done, so communities are not aware what is taking place regarding mining issues in Matatiele.

6. LOGO

Final draft ideas displayed (see logo at heading of minutes). Need to modify the mountains, and green shades, otherwise all expressed support for new logo. Gratitude to Meghan Ellis of LIMA for her help. Nicky to finalise with Tessa and Nolu from CSA.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT: THEME WORKING GROUPS, UPCOMING AND RELEVANT NEWS, NEXT MEETING DATE.

AI agreed that themed meetings will provide good structure for sharing. These would include water, climate change, alien clearing approaches, livestock management and ecosystem services related themes.

The date for the next meeting will be on **12th March 2014**. This will try to align with the planned District Climate Summit for March.

The chairperson thanked everyone for their efforts to attend the meeting.

Closure and Lunch - served by local ladies group.