

**Minutes of a meeting between Department of Environmental Affairs and NamWater**

**Date: 16 September 2019, Time: 14:30**

**Venue: Deputy Environmental Commissioner's Office**

**Attendance:**

J Murangi	NamWater (Environmental Scientist and scribe)
NP du Plessis	NamWater (Senior Environmentalist)
S Angula	Deputy Environmental Commissioner (Chairperson)

**1. Katji-na-katji Interm Water Supply Project:**

NP presented the background to the Katji-na-katji Project. In this presentation he stressed, that there is currently a serious problem with water supply and the Regional Councillor requested NamWater to provide a solution as quick as possible. 6 boreholes were drilled, with some of the boreholes having water quality problems, but two (2) of the six (6) drilled boreholes have good enough water and can be installed to supply water as an interim solution to Katji-na-katji. The ultimate aim for NamWater, is to find boreholes with good enough water to meet the demand, but in the meantime, these two (2) drilled boreholes will relax the water supply stress to the village. The pipeline to the boreholes will be 2.6 km, 63 mm diameter pipeline that will be belowground. The project will also include the installation of a 450 m of power line to the boreholes. The most important and urgent issue now, is to get the implementation of the interim solution, for which NamWater is requesting a waiver to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was compiled for the Contractor, which require full compliance. The Environmental Division will do EMP compliance monitoring during the construction phase of the project.

S. Angula informed NamWater to confirm if there are any conservancies or state forestry in the project area and to inform Roads Authority about the pipeline to be constructed before the construction commences (which should be outside the road reserve), as well as to look for possible demining. She further informed the meeting, that an EMP should be sufficient, and if there are households that might be affected by the project, that those be informed well before hand. She informed the meeting that in future NamWater should not request for an exemption, but should rather write a letter for an application of an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

**2. Hardap-Mariental Water Supply Scheme Extension Project:**

A hydraulic analysis was carried out on the East Bank pipeline and it was found that water will not reach the Mariental Terminal Reservoir during peak demand periods. Insufficient pressure limits volumes that can be conveyed through the pipeline. NamWater is formulating a solution to address the concern.

The main objective of the project is to improve the security of water supply to Mariental, by ensuring that sufficient water reaches Mariental Terminal Reservoir during peak demand periods. The project will entail: (1) the construction and installation of a new automated booster pump station. The pump station yard will be 28 m x 36 m located close to the junction going from Mariental to Stampriet and (2) a construction for a T-off a branch power line from the existing overhead power line going to Kaap Agri. stores and retail centre to energise the booster pumps. The proposed branch line will cover a distance of 350 metres. The area of the envisage project is within municipal boundaries and there is a signed lease agreement between the land owner and NamWater.

S. Angula informed NamWater to proceed with the application of the ECC and that the EMP compiled is sufficient for such the project.

**3. Constructions of Short Power Lines:**

There are often times, that NamWater has to install prepaid meters in different areas of the country, which requires the construction of short power lines in the range of 20 m to 1.5 km, usually to the nearest power supply and most of these projects usually falls within the village/town council boundaries.

S. Angula suggested, that NamWater should develop a generic EMP for power lines, which will then be submitted to MET with an ECC application.

**4. Ariamsvlei Project:**

The project entails the construction of a 1.2 km pipeline within the council boundaries. NamWater will follow the same approach as with the two above projects, which is to submit an EMP and apply for an ECC.

**5. Developments around Von Bach Dam; Feedback from S. Angula:**

Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) inspected the Von Bach Tungeni Resort infrastructure as well as the Ski Club, and letters were written following the site visit for both Tungeni and the Ski Club to compile and finalise their EMPs. Neither Tungeni or the Ski Club have submitted their EMPs. The DEA (Damian) will follow up on the EMPs. There was a report that was compiled by Tungeni, but it seems to have not been submitted to DEA or the submitted report did not include all the activities being undertaken at the resort.

NP informed the meeting that the Ski Club has French drains, and that NamWater is very concerned with possible spillage and the effect it will have on the Von Bach Dam. S. Angula advised NamWater to inform the DEA in future, whenever there are events at the Ski Club, so the DEA can make a turn and investigate the use of the sewer system.

NamWater will ask the Ski Club for their EMP.

During the site visit, the DEA staff encountered an overflowing drain, belonging to the Directorate of Parks, and a meeting (and a letter) was subsequently held between the deputy director for technical services (responsible for maintenance) and the deputy director for central parks (responsible for Von Bach), whereby S. Angula requested that the drain be fixed. They both promised to attend to the matter and did fix the drain. The DEA will make a turn whenever they are in the area for an inspection to ensure that the drain is not overflowing.

NamWater will also look at drain.

**6. AOB:**

**i. Road Construction between Windhoek and Okahandja:**

Just prior to Osona Village, the road being constructed is turning to the west, where it is crossing NamWater water pipelines supplying water from Von Bach to Windhoek. NamWater is concerned with the possible damage to the pipelines, as heavy trucks (with heavy loads such as sand, rocks etc.) are continually crossing over the pipelines without proper protection. The protection to be installed/constructed should be sufficient for the construction phase as well as for the operational phase. Any damage to the pipeline will be catastrophic to the water supply to Windhoek.

NamWater is still trying to get hold of the EIA and EMP reports for the project. NP du Plessis got hold of the EIA Consultant and was informed by the consultant, that he does not think (or remember) the NamWater pipelines being addressed in the EIA. NP will try to get hold of the Consultant once he is back in the country to get the EIA and EMP reports.

NamWater already had a discussion with the Construction Contractor and there was a proposal from the Contractor on the angle the road will be crossing the pipeline, and the NamWater Engineers seems to agree with the proposal. NamWater will send a letter of complaint to the DEA to register a formal concern. The letter should be submitted to S. Angula directly.

**ii. Policy on Development around Dams:**

NamWater drafted a policy on development around dams, about two years ago (2017), but it hasn't been formalised to avoid the policy clashing with the Water Resource Management Regulations, which are still being finalised. The NamWater Management has approved the policy, but cannot be approved by the board before the approval of the regulations.

S. Angula, suggested that NamWater should have everything ready and map the no-go areas (shape files) around all NamWater source dams while awaiting the regulations to be finalised. The map can be shared with all government ministries that are issue licences i.e. the Ministry of Mines, MET etc., but can however only be used once the policy has been formalised.

NP will request the NamWater GIS division to map the no-go areas around all source dams.

iii. **MET Training:**

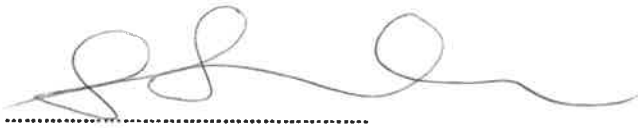
MET has signed an MOU with the Centre of Science and Environment from India, and there is an upcoming training on EMP preparations, what needs to be contained in the EMP, BIDs etc. in October. An invitation will be sent to NamWater to attend.

iv. **EMA Regulations:**

The regulations are ready and peer reviewed by the colleagues from India (Centre of Science and Environment) and also by legal consultants for verification of the legal language. The regulations were then presented to management and were prepared to go to the Ministry of Justice.

The expected finalization date is not yet known, as it is dependent on duration of the review period by the Ministry of Justice.

7. The minutes will be sent to the S. Angula for comments and signature.
8. With no additional issues to discuss, the S. Angula declared the meeting adjourned.



Chairperson



Date