



Olifants/Doorn WMA Newsletter — January 2008

You can make a difference . . .

This newsletter serves to highlight the projects that are presently going on in the Olifants/Doorn (O/D) Water Management Area (WMA).

Time seems to have flown by so quickly since 2005 when there was a drought and everybody was stressing about the level of the Clanwilliam dam not reaching 100% for the first time in years. The past two years have been better in terms of rainfall, but as a WMA we faced the challenge of losing some of our key staff members. Who would ever forget the ever energetic and hard working Mr. Abdulla Parker, the beautiful and hardworking Ms. Mmamotiti Rahube, Letitia Matthews and Katlego Sebogodi and the hardworking and dedicated Mr. Matthew Matiea. The WMA has had to operate on very limited staff for a very long time, but things are changing, we are making steady progress.

Yes, the drought has broken but we are now faced with the new challenge of climate change. Climate change is becoming more and more of a reality and cannot be ignored anymore. Agriculture is undoubtedly the most important sector in South Africa, in Africa as a whole. The debate on climate

change and its impacts on agriculture is therefore very crucial to the very survival of the continent and its people. Africa is particularly susceptible to climate change because it includes some of the world's poorest nations. As a country, a region and even as a WMA we need to look at how we can play a role in slowing down the process of climate change. **Never underestimate the difference you can make as an individual, remember, every little bit counts.**

On the positive side a lot has been achieved since the last issue of this newsletter. The second **Integrated Water Resources Management project (IWRM II)** finally got off the ground and much progress has already been made.

Verification of the Jan Dissels River was successfully completed and we are now busy with **Compulsory Licensing**. Compulsory licensing is the only way for us to achieve assurance of supply for all the water users in that catchment, but also ensuring that there will be some left for future generations.

A lot of progress has also been made regarding the feasibility study for **raising of the Clanwilliam Dam**.

Many public meetings were held because as a Department we do not underestimate the importance of public participation.

Two Water User Associations were established in the WMA viz.: **Krom Antonies WUA and Northern Sandveld WUA**. WUAs are becoming more and more important in managing water resources at a community level.

In closing I would like to encourage the following:

- A strengthening in the partnerships between commercial farmers and emerging farmers. Commercial farmers have an important role to play in ensuring the success of emerging farmers through sharing ideas, capacity building and even land and water.
- Be active in the forums and Water User Associations in your area, that is the only way you will make your voice heard and be part of the management of your own water resources. Empowerment of women in water issues in the WMA is also crucial. Empowering them to sit on forums and Water User Associations to be part of the decision making when it comes to water issues.

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- Using water sparingly in the house, the garden, on the farm, everywhere. Conservation of our water resources is important and must be one of our primary focuses.
- Reporting illegal water use and pollution incidents. Officials from this Department are dependent on the water user in the WMA to highlight these issues for the necessary actions to be taken.

Please remember that as a Department we are here to serve you and are continually looking at ways to serve you better.

*Olifants/Doorn
Acting Catchment
Manager :
Ms. Nosie Mazwi
Tel: 021 950 7206*



COMPULSORY LICENSING IN THE JAN DISSELS RIVER

Recent years has seen an increase in tension between water users in the Jan Dissels River, particularly during the low flow in summer.

As a solution to the conflict, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), together with local water users embarked on a water use verification pilot study. This study lead to a Compulsory licensing process currently taking place in the Jan Dissels catchment.



Compulsory Licensing is DWAF's most important tool to reform how the country's scarce water resources are managed.

It allows the Department, in consultation with stakeholders, to review and change the way all water resources are shared out and used in this area, to address poverty and past injustices and to make the best possible use of the water available.

Compulsory Licensing means that depending on how water is being used, water users may need a licence to use raw water for commercial purposes, such as farming, forestry, mining, business and industry (raw water is the water in the river, dams and reservoirs and underground).

However, no license will be needed for tap (domestic) water, which is potable (treated) water from the municipality.

Public Participation The first step in the process was the announcement of Compulsory licensing in the Jan Dissels River with stakeholders.

Notices, in English and Afrikaans, were placed in and around Clanwilliam and also published in provincial newspapers, the Cape Times, Die Burger and in the local newspaper, Ons Kontrei. The notices announced the compulsory licensing process and invited interested and affected persons to attend the first public meeting. State Departments, Water User Associations, Non-Governmental Organisations and other stakeholders were also invited to participate.

The workshop was successfully held in Clanwilliam on 27 July 2007 at the Clanwilliam Bowling Club. DWAF's water awareness materials for water allocation reform and compulsory licensing, in Afrikaans, English and isiZulu were provided at the workshop.

Various materials on opportunities has been collated and reviewed, and served as the preparation for an initial opportunities assessment in the catchment. During this assessment, meetings were held with government departments and

institutions, key stakeholders amongst the emerging and commercial farmers, and other stakeholders within the catchment and civil society organisations active in the Jan Dissels.

At the launch of the Jan Dissels Compulsory Licensing project, a presentation was given on the opportunities task and the process to identify opportunities, and a questionnaire (in English, Afrikaans and IsiXhosa) was distributed. A total of 22 completed questionnaires have been received to date, primarily from the emerging farmer groupings, but also from commercial farmers and government institutions. This response represents a high portion of stakeholders in the catchment.

Empowerment A workshop on Equity Partnerships was held on the afternoon of Friday, 17th August, well attended by commercial farmers, and some of their workers. This workshop doubled as an empowerment workshop on equity schemes, as well as to identify opportunities. Key stakeholders from the Lutouw equity scheme shared their experience. Following the workshop, focussed discussions were held with commercial farmers that are seriously exploring the equity share options, to define and describe the opportunities in detail.





the Feasibility Study for the Raising of Clanwilliam Dam.

The municipality has been contacted with regard to making an assessment of their future use, however, no useful information has been obtained at this stage. Further attempts will be made to establish the anticipated future water requirements from the Municipality.

significantly reduce flows in the dry summer months. Registered groundwater use in the study area amounts to 0.33 million m³/a (this study). Only two groundwater users are registered in the study area, although there are at least 17 known boreholes in the study area.

After taking into account the Reserve and the estimated current groundwater resource, it is computed that 9.1 million m³/a could be abstracted from the study area. Significant potential therefore exists for further groundwater development. Fault zones that can be targeted are located close to existing users.

A meeting was held between the team members to discuss the results of the allocable water study and to determine possible scenarios to prevent these shortfalls or minimise their effects.

The scenario to augment the current water supply with additional groundwater sources seems to be a viable option.

An further option, especially for the lower water users, would be to possibly store excess winter water from the Jan Dissels water in the Clanwilliam Dam and make use of the canal in summer fed by Clanwilliam Dam.

The draft **water allocation plan** has been completed and once the study has been finalised all the above mentioned documents will be made available at the DWAF offices in Clanwilliam and Bellville for public input and comment.

The **last public meeting** for the Jan Dissels Compulsory Licensing process is scheduled for **early February 2008**.

Empowerment workshops were held on Saturday 18th August and 20th October 2007 at the Living Landscape in Clanwilliam to enable HDIs in the catchment to be empowered on basic concepts and to enable them to meaningfully participate in the compulsory licensing process. The workshop was well attended. Discussion focussed on the National Water Act, the water resource, water cycle, river catchment, the Reserve, Water Management Area, water management institutions (CMA & WUA), integrated water resource management, water allocation reform, compulsory licensing and the Compulsory Licensing Process in the Jan Dissels River Catchment, accessing government subsidies, applying for water use licenses and the role that emerging farmers need to play in water resource management.

Opportunities distilled through the extensive informant interviews, workshops and questionnaires were assessed against a set of economic, institutional, social and technical criteria, and a detailed description of each opportunity was developed. The draft opportunities report has been compiled on the basis of this analysis. The opportunities described in the draft report were assessed in terms of their water requirements. The verified application rates have been compared to the average application rates reported in the Soils, Water Requirements and Crops Report (DWAF Report No. P WMA 17/E10/00/1106) which formed part of

The **Ecological Water Requirements** (EWRs) have been determined and a draft EWR Report for discussion has been produced.

The report suggests the following divisions for the river, with the current ecological status:

- Source to causeway at Boschklouf: B
- Causeway at Boschklouf to confluence with the Taaiboschkraal River: C
- Confluence with the Taaiboschkraal River to confluence with the Olifants River: D

The Category C requirement at the weir is 21% of natural Mean Annual Runoff (MAR). The Category D requirement immediately upstream of the confluence with the Olifants River is 16% of the natural MAR.

The **groundwater evaluation** has also been completed and a draft report for discussion has been produced.

It was estimated that the groundwater contribution to baseflow in the E10H catchment is in the order of 3.0 million m³/a. The groundwater contribution to baseflow is most critical during dry summer months when groundwater sustains both pools and flow in the river. Abstraction of groundwater from boreholes located too close to a river or in direct hydraulic connectivity with the river could



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT - IWRM

Great progress is being made in implementing the IWRM II project in the Olifants/Doorn. The IWRM II project focuses on Water in Service Delivery for Growth and Development.

A total of 27 projects were received from the communities of the Olifants/Doorn WMA and most of them were funded to some extent or another. It is humbling to see how hard people work in their communities to make a difference in terms of food security, water conservation, environmental protection, etc. Pilot projects are being implemented by water champions and communities (Strand 3 projects) and by local government at municipal level (Strand 1 projects).

Capacity building and empowerment is central to the design and implementation of Strand 3 projects.

Preliminary Consultation

In August 2006 a workshop was held with representatives from communities



in the WMA drawn from the Catchment Management Forums (CMF). The proposal applications were discussed and groups conducted a first "brainstorming" of potential projects - this resulted in over 30 project ideas being identified. Of significant importance the participants were asked to nominate two persons from their CMF to be involved in the first round selection of proposals once the first drafts had been prepared. This was an important step in capacity building and building responsibility.

Development of draft proposals

Following the "ideas" workshop the communities were allowed a 6-8 week period to prepare their first draft proposals. Support was provided in guiding them in the type of information they would need to obtain as background material to their proposals.

Preliminary screening of proposals

Some 25 initial project proposals were received. Projects included food security, women's small farming cooperatives, emerging farmers and community awareness relating to IWRM issues. At a workshop held in November in Clanwilliam the community representatives were consulted on the criteria to be used and the evaluation method to be used. On the basis of this exercise the projects were ranked by priority by the community representatives.

Final project design workshop

In January 2007 some forty-five participants representing over twenty projects were trained in finalizing their project proposals. This involved taking the participants through the process of developing objectives, outputs and indicators and, more importantly, how to prepare schedules and budgets. It

was emphasized throughout the workshop that whilst the IWRM projects funds would be a grant, the monies would only be disbursed against delivery i.e. monthly invoices.

The workshop required intense effort. The day prior to the two-day workshop DWAF head office and regional staff together with service pro-

viders, who would all work as facilitators worked through the application forms and agreed on what had to be achieved at the workshop.

The workshop was deemed to have been an enormous success and many,



particularly rural women, appreciated the opportunity that had been given for capacity development.

Site visits

Following the design workshop, site visits will be arranged in order to allow the project promoters and communities involved to explain their projects. These visits will also serve to gather material for the preparation of a compendium of projects.

Selection of first round projects

In March 2007 a committee comprised of the IWRM Programme partners, Department of Agriculture, municipalities in the WMA and independent representatives from the CMA Reference Group selected the first pilot projects.





Water for Growth & Development Showcasing IWRM Community Projects and Funders Conference

Between the 25 and 27 September 2007 all the participants to the project design workshop were given the opportunity to present their projects to a broad spectrum of potential (additional) funders from the public and private sector. Assistance was provided in the preparation of presentation materials and coaching during the brokerage workshop.

Inception Phase

Some twenty projects entered into the Inception Phase and a limited budget was made available to initiate key activities. The main purpose of this phase was to clarify budgets and synergies/linkages with other initiatives by municipalities, government departments or donors.

Final contractual negotiations

The final contract negotiations workshop involved, explaining the contracts and ensuring that the communities fully understood the conditions, and training in book keeping and monthly invoicing.



Key aspects of Implementation

- Regular dissemination of information and participatory monitoring & evaluation workshops held
- Service provider monitoring, coaching and back-stopping
- Call-down expert facility to allow community projects to have access to ad hoc technical expertise and training



Honourable Member of Parliament Ms Connie September addresses the IWRM Conference.

20 Strand 3 projects were approved with a total budget of R3.2 million.

To date R1 million has been paid to projects and their suppliers for labour, equipment and materials.



MEET THE OLIFANTS/DOORN CMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee (AC) for the Olifants/Doorn WMA was established in August 2007.



Olifants/Doorn Advisory Committee (l-r) Mr Willie Enright, Mr Patrick Steenkamp, Mr Jonathan Arendse, Ms Joan Joubert, Mr Dirk Visser & Ms Elza-lyne Kruger Not present: Mr Andre Roux, Cnlr Enrid Pllatjies and Ms Linda Moss.

The main function of the Advisory Committee is to recommend the Governing Board of the Catchment Management Agency (CMA) to the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF).

Section 81(1) of the National Water Act (NWA) requires the AC to consider balance:

- interests of water users,
- potential water users local and
- provincial government environmental interest groups

Section 81(3) requires the AC to recommend:

- which organs of state and bodies
- representing different sectors and other interests within the WMA should be represented or reflected on the governing board
- the number of persons which each of them should be invited to nominate

Section 81(4) requires:

- consult with the relevant organs of state and interest groups before making its recommendations

National Treasury / DPSA Governance Framework

- Good corporate governance
- Government social and economic objectives
- Public service transformation (delivery / Employment equity)

King II - good corporate governance guidelines

- Financial management (PFMA; GAAP)
- Business risk management (operations; revenue)
- Corporate compliance (business; labour)
- Social and environmental obligations (best practice)

The Advisory Committee must balance interest representation

After appointing members to the board the Minister may appoint additional members, selected by the Minister, in order to

- represent or reflect the interests identified by the advisory committee;
- achieve sufficient gender representation;
- achieve sufficient demographic representation;
- achieve representation of the Department;
- achieve representation of disadvantaged persons or communities which have been prejudiced by past racial and gender discrimination in relation to access to water; &
- obtain the expertise necessary for the efficient exercise of the board's, powers and performance of its duties.

The members of the Olifants/Doorn CMA Advisory Committee are:

- Councilor Enid Pllatjies
- Linda Moss (Parliament)
- Jonathan Arendse (Parliament)
- Patrick Steenkamp (Loeriesfontein)
- Joan Joubert (Lutzville)
- Dirk Visser (Citrusdal)
- Elza-lyne Kruger (N. Water Advisory Council)
- Andre Roux (Dept Agriculture)
- Willie Enright (DWAF)



PROGRESS: RAISING OF CLANWILLIAM DAM

Introduction

As part of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWA) mission to ensure that sustainable provision of safe Water for social development as well as current use and future availability of water, DWA plans to raise the wall of the Clanwilliam Dam. The proposed project is two folded : Firstly DWA aims to do remedial work to strengthen the anchors currently holding this ancient dam located on the Olifants River in the Western Cape, originally built in 1935, and was raised in the 1960s by adding 13 crest gates and through the use of pre-stressed cables. The other arm is to the height of the dam at least by 15m from its current 43m to increase storage capacity as well as presenting an opportunity to raise the Full Supply Level (FSL).

In January 2004, the Clanwilliam Dam Raising Association, comprising Ninham Shand, Asch Consulting Engineers and Jakoet & Associates was appointed by the DWA to undertake extensive research on impacts the proposed development could have both socially and to the surrounding environment.

The research revealed that should the dam be raised, sections of the N7 National Road would be inundated, and would therefore require



The existing Clanwilliam Dam wall

realignment. Other roads in the vicinity would also be affected by the inundation. realignment.

The Proposed Project

The proposed project entails the following activities for which environmental authorisation must be obtained before the commencement of the development.

- A positive Record of decision (ROD) from The Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (D:EA&DP) for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which intensively detail how the surrounding environment as well as ecosystem is going to be affected temporarily and permanently.
- Licence Application in terms of National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) for the Abstraction and Storage of water. This process also involves a detailed study for reserve determi-

nation which caters for basic human needs and water for the environment.

Public Participation & Conclusion

Public participation forms an integral component of this Proposed Project. The nature of the public consultation during the Inception Phase was comprehensive and included advertising in regional and local newspapers, distribution of background information, holding of public meetings and focus group meetings and capturing issues in issues trails which are included in the reports. Letter to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I &AP) via post were mailed on all stages of the project so far. Cognisance was taken of all I &AP comments when finalising the Environmental Impact Report .

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry hopes to start building on March 2009 subject that all authorisations and processes are obtained in time.



Contact us

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

Private Bag X16
Sanlamhof 7532
17 Strand Street
Bellville 7530

Phone: 021 950-7100
Fax: 021 950-7224
Email: Majolar@dwaf.gov.za



As the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, we want to be viewed as a department that provides “some for all forever” and this is captured strategically in our vision, mission and values.

“We have a **vision** of being: a country that uses water and forests productively and in a sustainable manner for social and economic activities; in a manner that promotes growth, development and prosperity of all people to achieve social jus-

We are on the web:
www.dwaf.gov.za

Meet the Olifants/Doorn Staff



Willie Enright
Tel 021 950 7205
Cell 082 807 3535



Nosie Mazwi
Tel 021 950 7206
Cell 082 802 7128



Francois van Heerden
Tel 027 482 2233
Cell 082 807 3539



Nolita Zuzani
Tel 021 950 7274



Edward Mahosi
Tel 021 950 7223



Sharon Stewart
Tel 021 950 7239

Supporting staff:

Geohydro:

Bayanda Zenzile 021 950 7190
Brian Dyson 021 950 7188
Paul Seward 021 950 7268

WARMS:

Viwe Booï 021 950 7175
Johan van Zyl 027 482 2233



Olifants-Doorn
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