

MINUTES OF MEETING (Scheepersvlakte Farms - May 2022)



PROJECT NAME: Algoa Water Supply Scheme – Lower Coerney Balancing Dam EIA & WULA: Scheepersvlakte Farms Meeting
MEETING: Scheepersvlakte Farms Meeting (May 2022)
CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Tony Moore
RECORDED BY: Mr. Vukosi Mabunda
DATE: 26th May 2022
TIME: 11:00 to 12:00
VENUE MS Teams

ATTENDANCE				
Name	Organization	Role	Email address	Telephone
Tony Moore (TM)	DWS	Project Director		
Dayton Tagwi (DT)	DWS	Project Manager		
Menard Mugumo (MM)	DWS	Project Manager		
Cebisa Goboza (CG)	DWS	Catchment Management		
Andrew Lucas (AL)	DWS	Water Regulation & Use		
Bolekwa Kama (BK)	DWS	Catchment Management		
Bhekokwakhe Kunene (BK)	DWS	Catchment Management		
Benjamin Coetzee (BC)	Scheepersvlakte Farms	Representative		
Deon Heyns (DH)	Scheepersvlakte Farms	Representative		
Mike Primmer (MP)	LSRWUA	LSRWUA CEO		
Nkhensani Khandhela (NK)	GA Environment	Project Reviewer		
Vukosi Mabunda (VM)	GA Environment	Project Manager / EAP		
APOLOGIES / NO RESPONSE				
Tabisa Fiko (TF)	DWS	Dam Safety Officer		
Chriselna Fourie (CF)	DWS	Department Director		
Glen Daniell (GD)	DWS	Infrastructure (OP)		
Koos Viljoen (KV)	DWS	NWRI (CO)		
Sivashni Naicker (SN)	DWS	Trainee		
Fourie Fanus (FF)	DWS	Trainee		
Jackie Jay (JJ)	DWS	Trainee		
Frikkie Oliver	Scheepersvlakte Farmer	Representative		

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Andrew Woghiren	Sustainable Insights	Project Director	
DISTRIBUTION			
All attendants and non-attendants on the list above			

Item	Description	Action
A.1	<p>Opening & Welcome</p> <p>TM opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</p>	
A.2	<p>Introductions, Apologies and Attendance Register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendants introduced themselves, their organization and role in the project. Apologies and no responses were received for other members who were invited. Refer to the attendance register above for the meeting attendance registers. 	
A.3	<p>Safety Brief</p> <p>VM provided the safety briefing by highlighting the importance of safe judgement and cooperating when faced with a life-threatening situation. It is important to carefully judge a situation when being robbed or hijacked, knowing when to fight or when to cooperate can make a difference between life and death.</p>	
B.1	<p>Acceptance of Agenda</p> <p>No amendments were made to the agenda. The agenda was accepted.</p>	
B.2	<p>Purpose of the meeting</p> <p>TM outlined that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss how the proposed Lower Coerney Balancing Dam affects the Scheepersvlakte Farms (current dam under construction and the planned citrus farm footprint).</p>	
B.3	<p>Proposed Coerney Dam basin area (overlap with irrigation)</p> <p>3.1. Proposed Lower Coerney Balancing Dam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TM highlighted the dam footprint in relation to the planned irrigation area using a map compiled by GA Environment. VM presented the planned Coerney Dam and associated infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approximately 74 ha dam footprint, just north of the small farm dam on Scheepersvlakte Farms, which is currently under construction; ➤ Approximately 34 ha overlap with the planned citrus farm area; ➤ Dam to act as balancing dam to supply Scheepersvlakte Farms and emergency 	

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supply to Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM).

3.2. Technical Aspects of the proposed Coerney Dam

- DT enquired about the compensation to the farmers for the land required for the dam. TM indicated that the Department (DWS) pays per market value of the required land, and such will be discussed with the affected landowners during the detailed design phase.
- MM requested the planned programme for the current dam under construction including the planned date for the operational phase. DH indicated that the dam is close to completion and the operational phase is anticipated soon, given that the Lower Coerney Dam is expected in 2026.
- DH proposed that the small farm dam on Scheepersvlakte Farms could be used by DWS for additional storage to the Coerney Dam since the dam has already been built. TM indicated that the Coerney Dam cannot be shifted as this will compromise the capacity and integrity of the dam. The Department (DWS) could include the small farm dam in the detailed design of Coerney Dam to explore the possibility of additional capacity and supply in the region.
- DH enquired on the plans for the Scheepersvlakte Dam after the development of Coerney Dam and asked if it would be possible to pump from Scheepersvlakte Dam for the Farm. TM indicated that Scheepersvlakte Dam was established as a balancing dam for the canal system in the area and will continue to serve that purpose. MP stated that pumping from Scheepersvlakte Dam after the development of Coerney Dam can only be possible once the canal break has been successfully reinstalled.

DWS

3.3. Programme for the proposed Coerney Dam

- The project is currently in the planning phase, which will be followed by two to three years for the design and finally about four years for the construction phase. This is the best-case scenario.
- DH highlighted the complexities that the programme might have on the current dam and overall decision on whether or not to proceed with the current farm dam. They will require water for irrigation as soon as they start planting and cannot wait for about six years for the Coerney Dam to be completed. TM stressed that the Coerney Dam will be implemented as it is required for emergency water supply to the NMBM. The challenge is the timeline to reach the operational phase of the dam.
- DH emphasized that the Region is currently experiencing shortages of water supply and the project is supposed to address these water issues; so why is the dam only planned to be operational in six years' time? TM responded that the dam was approved as an emergency project by the previous Minister of Water Affairs to fast track the project, however the design process is progressing slower than it should. Internal processes need to be followed to ensure the project is successfully implemented. MM suggested that the design team section be invited to the next meeting to provide an update as well as to explore fast tracking the process.

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<p>B.4</p>	<p>Pumping from Coerney Dam by Scheepersvlakte Farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TM stated that the design for the Coerney Dam makes provision for 150 000 m³ for use by Scheepersvlakte Farms which must be confirmed by the water licensing office. • DH indicated that Scheepersvlakte Farms went ahead with the construction of the smaller dam due to delays in the Coerney Dam. However, Scheepersvlakte Farms want to explore the possibility of pumping water from the Coerney Dam as it is better situated for the irrigation. • MM enquired if the Scheepersvlakte Farms will be pumping the water directly from the Coerney Dam. TM advised that the agreement, in principle, is that Scheepersvlakte Farms can pump directly from the dam, but the LSRWUA will control and monitor the usage of the water. The agreement still needs to be formalized by Southern Operations. CG and KV are to advise on the matter. 	<p>CG and KV</p>
<p>B.5</p>	<p>Temporary pumping from Scheepersvlakte Dam</p> <p>TM stated that in a meeting held in May 2019, this item (temporary pumping from Scheepersvlakte Dam) was discussed and agreed upon in principle. However, during the feasibility study, it was found that the temporary pumping is not recommended. MP added that in theory it is possible to temporarily pump water from the Scheepersvlakte Dam, but it is practically impossible due to the increased abstraction rate required by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.</p>	
<p>B.6</p>	<p>Other matters</p> <p>AL provided context regarding the critical supply of water to NMBM by highlighting that the Nootgedacht Water Treatment Works Phase 3 project is not yet completed, but is already supplying water to the municipality. There is also a request to increase the supply by 30 Mega litres bringing the supply to 240 Mega litres per day, which emphasises the water issues within the municipality.</p>	
<p>C.1</p>	<p>Action Items and Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Department (DWS) is to investigate the feasibility of including the small farm dam on Scheepersvlakte Farms in the detailed design of Coerney Dam to explore the possibility of additional capacity and supply in the region. ➤ Meeting between LSRWUA and Scheepersvlakte Farms to discuss the technical and operational aspects of the irrigation development for a better understanding going forward. ➤ Input is required from CG and KV to formalize an agreement with Scheepersvlakte Farms regarding pumping from Coerney Dam. 	<p>DWS</p> <p>LSRWUA & Farmers</p> <p>CG & KV</p>

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	➤ DWS is to provide the planned layout of Coerney Dam to Scheepersvlakte Farms for re-designing and consideration of the irrigation area.	DWS
C.2	General MP requested a meeting with Scheepersvlakte Farms to discuss the possibility of the small farm dam being incorporated as a balancing dam for the scheme after the development of Coerney Dam. DH agreed to the meeting.	LSRWUA & Scheepersvlakte Farms
C.3	Closing of Meeting TM thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12h00.	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Client: Dayton Tagwi

Date: 08/08/2022

Signature:  pp

Consultant: Nkhensani Khandlhela

Date: 24/08/2022

Signature: 