

Minutes

Meeting of the Working Group, The Water Dialogues- South Africa
29 August 2007, Salt Rock Hotel, Dolphin Coast

Present: Bheki Ngubo (Department of Water Affairs and Forestry); Stephen Law (Environmental Monitoring Group); Marie Brisley (Department of Water Affairs and Forestry); Hameda Deedat (SA Water Caucus); Jean Pierre Mas (JOWAM); William Moraka (SA Local Government Association); Tony Saunders (Water and Sanitation Services, SA); Laila Smith (Mvula Trust); Jessica Wilson (Environmental Monitoring Group); Neil Macleod (eThekweni Municipality); Mary Galvin (WD-SA Coordinator); Juliet Mwale (Water Information Network); Kathy Eales (Water Research Commission); Sandile Mbanjwa (Observer Status)

Apologies: Jay Bhagwan (Water Research Commission), Jeff Rudin (South African Municipal Workers' Union), Nolene Morris (Bloem Water)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Neil Macleod agreed to chair and welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of 16 May 2007 were accepted with the following corrections:

- Page 1: Ina Mataung should read Ina Socishe
- Page 2: Should read GATS (General Agreement on Trade and Services) and not GATTS (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs)
- Page 12: Currently, the first paragraph should read, "...is the secretariat for Water Operating Partnership."

There was a request that acronyms be used less.

Detailed minutes were useful; this should be remembered for future minutes.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

3.1 Code of Conduct

Mary reported:

- SALGA has signed the Code of Conduct (noting that it requires final ratification from the NEC)
- The Coalition Against Water Privatisation decided not to join the Working Group and a letter summarizing its reasons had been circulated
- National Treasury has not signed but attended the first day as observers and will now decide whether to sign
- Bloem Water has signed (SAAWU has not signed although they declared a commitment)

- Sandile Mbanjwa will seek clarity whether he will participate on behalf of SALGA or his municipality.

Although Mary did meet with Laila and Tumi, Marie suggested further discussion with individuals at National Treasury.

It was agreed that the Coalition will not be pursued further as it has made a firm decision not to sign.

If Sandile will participate as SALGA, he will need a clear mandate sanctioned by National Executive Committee. Mary pointed out that William represents SALGA and Neil represents eThekweni, which is a member of SALGA.

ACTION:

Neil to phone TV Pillay from National Treasury to try to convince them to sign. Mary to remind Neil.

Mary to follow up with Noleen to find out if she can represent SAAWU.

SALGA and Sandile to decide whether he will represent his municipality and/or SALGA.

3.2 Actions from Previous Meeting

International Investment Treaty

All actions have been completed.

Feedback from the Water Managers' Forum

Neil has organised for Mary to make a presentation at the City Water Managers' Forum (CWMF) on 15/16 November. Mary is still to follow up on the District Water Managers' Forum (DWMF).

Change to problem statement

The proposed amendment to the problem statement was accepted.

Representation

- From non-metropolitan municipalities: this has happened as can be attested to by Sandile's presence.
- City of Johannesburg: Mary confirms that the City of Johannesburg has been removed from all documentation as Kathy now represents the Water Research Commission (WRC).

Research

This has been done and is a separate item on the agenda of this meeting.

Background Information

Mary obtained the benchmarking information from Neil. She found that the IWRM reports do not exist.

Timelines and Budgets

ManCo revisited line items to identify possible additional funding for case studies.

Formation of an Advocacy and Communication group

This topic has been placed on the agenda as proposed.

4. Reports

4.1 Coordinator's Report

The Coordinator's Report was accepted.

4.2 Report back from IWG

The International Working Group has not met since the last Working Group meeting. Mary and Jessica will report back following the meeting in ten days time.

4.3 Irish Aid Report (including financial report)

The last quarterly report was circulated to the Working Group and submitted to Irish Aid.

5. New Business

5.1 New members

Bheki reported that Barry Jackson indicated interest in joining the Working Group. Laila said that such interest in the Working Group was a sign of its success.

Although it was noted that new members would affect group dynamics, members were clear that they wanted to avoid exclusivity.

Noting that this would be setting a precedent around new members, Jessica suggested a criterion for someone seeking to be a member would be that they should bring a new perspective that is not represented. It was agreed that a set of criteria for new membership be drawn up including being active in the sector, adding value, or representing an under- or unrepresented viewpoint.

Barry has extensive experience and interest in PPPs and was a driver of the MIIU. His perspective would be valuable and would be particularly important if National Treasury does not join the Working Group.

ACTION: Mary to invite Barry to join the Working Group as a representative of the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), required to sign the Code of Conduct. (Should this not be acceptable, Barry to be brought in as an expert as and when needed.)

Mary to send all necessary documentation to new/ prospective members, particularly the report from Monday night's workshop.

Bheki had discussed WD-SA participation with Lucky Lesia from the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG). Lucky indicated his interest and said he would raise it with his management, but Bheki has not heard anything further from him.

5.2 Funding

Mary clarified that extra funds would only be considered by IrishAid at the end of the financial year, if there was underspending on the part of other Irish Aid partners. Laila reported that DWAF had requested proposals from civil society organisations in the water sector but the deadline is Friday. Suggestions included applying for funds to deepen the civil society aspect of current proposal; to convene report back meetings of communities and their WSP; and include the Chris Hani case study (CBOs). Mary was hesitant about including advocacy since the Working Group had not yet discussed it thoroughly.

ACTION: Mary to ask Irish Aid for a time extension and to submit a revised proposal with expanded budget later.

Mary to prepare a funding proposal for civil society-related activities and send it to Laila by Thursday.

Jessica to assist Mary by going through the budgets and making adjustments to meet the criteria for this proposal.

Jessica suggested that the group should not exclude other smaller forms of support such as members such as WRC or DWAF sponsoring aspects of work. Jean Pierre indicated that the French Development Agency (AFD) may be another possibility.

5.3 Participation in meetings planned by the IWG

World Water Week (Stockholm): report

William and Jean Pierre reported that this went really well despite modest numbers. The posters that Mary prepared generated interest and were very helpful. People were interested in how the WD-SA managed to bring together the wide range of players, and in the Code of Conduct. The WD-SA was profiled by Franceys when he spoke about capacity building. A good thing, according to Jean Pierre, was that people who attended were well informed.

ACTION:

Jean Pierre and William to provide a short report (a paragraph or two) of their impressions and experiences (as an internal document for the Working Group).

Mary to ask Hillary for her report.

International Research Meeting (London): update on plans

WD-SA participants will include Jeff, Mary, and Jessica (as IWG). They have made input into the agenda via teleconference with other country dialogues. The meeting will provide an opportunity to receive feedback from International Academic Review Board members on specific issues and to touch base on what dialogues are doing around research.

Mary suggested that even if countries cannot do research they could offer information on contexts and issues within each country. She developed an outline for other dialogues to consider using as a guide so there is some consistency between country dialogues.

Jessica explained that there is a political dimension to the international meetings and a need to understand the relationship between research at a national and how it can influence or be influenced by what is happening internationally. Jessica has offered to

draft some questions or points for discussion at the international research meeting. The idea is that the project has a reach beyond SA.

Neil said that, if nothing came out of this meeting, the Working Group should question continued participation in such meetings.

Mary reported that Ganesh from the International Secretariat would like to visit South Africa to do process recording and familiarize himself with WD-SA. To date he has been unable to schedule a visit to coincide with our Working Group meetings. Jean Pierre suggested that the information from Monday's session be shared with Ganesh. It was agreed that, if he wished to interview Working Group members, he would need to come to the next Working Group meeting.

ACTION: Mary to communicate with the International Secretariat to relay the above agreement regarding Ganesh's visit and to send a record of Monday's session.

International Research and Advocacy Meeting (Bali): selection of representatives

Mary said that an international research and advocacy meeting would be held in Bali from 25-28 November 2007, followed by an IWG meeting on 30 November-1 December 2007. The IS had asked WD-SA to choose up to three people to attend and provided criteria for their selection. Mary reminded the WG of the criteria it established for selecting representatives to international meetings and went through the IS selection criteria:

WD-SA Criteria

1. Knowledgeable about subject of context , e.g. research, advocacy, etc
2. All members get exposure
3. Representivity of sector
4. Use opportunities to piggy back on other events
5. Attention to race and gender
6. Availability from one's employer

IS Criteria

- Each country must send at least one IWG member (or alternate)
- Where there are two IWG members living in one country (e.g. a link member of the IWG and a founding member), it is up to the NWG to decide whether both should attend, or only one - in line with other criteria for attendance
- Each country should send someone with a detailed knowledge of their research programme and research methodology, ideally the person coordinating or guiding this area of their work
- Each country should send someone committed to developing and implementing an advocacy and communications strategy for the outputs of the national and international level work. Ideally this person should have some experience of this type of work
- All participants must be willing and able to confirm dates of travel and apply for a visa by 20th September
- All participants must be willing and able to undertake preparatory work for the meeting during October and November and participate in teleconferences as required

- Ideally, participants should be sensitive to the demands of operating in a multicultural and multistakeholder setting where there are big cultural differences in what is deemed appropriate behaviour

After much discussion, it was agreed that the following members would represent WD-SA in Bali (alternates were noted in brackets):

1. Mary
2. Jay (Kathy)
3. Laila (Jessica)

ACTION: Members selected for Bali to communicate with Mary regarding their availability.

OECD/Nepad Meeting in Zambia: decision about participation

Mary circulated correspondence explaining the aims of the meeting and Hilary's motivation for WD-SA participation. It was agreed that participation could not be about putting forward a position on Public-Private Partnerships. Instead attendance would be about bringing the concept of dialogue to issues of water and sanitation.

Members discussed whether this meeting is a priority in our advocacy and communication strategy. No Working Group member was available to participate and the Working Group agreed it was not a priority.

ACTION: Mary to communicate to Hilary that WD-SA would not be participating in this meeting.

5.4 Preparation of working definitions and contextual analysis

It was agreed to drop the working definitions document.

Mary reminded those who had not given comments on the contextual analysis that she needed them. She was very pleased that some members had provided extensive inputs, but that this need not be the standard-- brief inputs in point form are welcome from others.

ACTION: Working Group members who have not already done so to provide Mary with input on the contextual analysis outline.

5.5 Formation of Research and Advocacy/ Communication sub-groups

The idea is to have sub groups which can work between meetings.

ACTION: Kathy to begin drafting a discussion document on advocacy and to discuss it with Laila, Jessica, and Mary via teleconference. In consultation with Kathy, Mary to organize a teleconference and to circulate the discussion document to the Working Group.

5.6 Sourcing consultants and researchers for next phase

ACTION: The strongest candidates from the existing shortlist to be used as first choice. ManCo to review researchers who have not been through the selection process and make a recommendation to the Working Group.

6. Other Issues

No other issues were tabled.

7. Closing and Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting: 16 November at Mvula offices in Braamfontein, 10am- 4pm

Chair: Neil MacLeod