

Minutes

Meeting of the Working Group, The Water Dialogues- South Africa
Tuesday 3 April 2007, Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg

Present: Abri Vermeulen (DWAF), Laila Smith (The Mvula Trust), William Moraka (SALGA), Mary Galvin (WD Coordinator), Jean-Pierre Mas (JOWAM), Jessica Wilson (EMG), Kathy Eales (City of Johannesburg)

Apologies: Hamed Deedat (SA Water Caucus), Jay Bhagwan (WRC), Neil MacLeod (eThekweni Water)

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Acceptance of Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes

Mary circulated a copy of the minutes from 23 February 2007 electronically in advance and by email at this meeting, but it was decided to approve these minutes at the next WG meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Forum meeting

4.1 Changes to the Chart

As requested by Jean-Pierre, it was agreed to change the chart to “public-public-private” for Jo-burg Water and others of that type. It was also agreed to change “CBO” to “community based and small scale local providers”.

4.2 Method/ Values Changes

As a means of finalising methodology, Mary offered to prepare an input on methodology for the next WG meeting, also addressing issues raised by Jay’s group at the Forum.

5. Additional ManCo member

Mary asked that a new member be selected to replace Abri on the ManCo. It was agreed that the following members would serve consecutively, each over a six month period: Jean-Pierre Mas, Laila Smith, and Kathy Eales.

6. Researchers

It was agreed that it is important to begin by getting into two cases in order to learn and identify unforeseen problems. Jessica, Laila and Mary to work on

researcher selection and to make a plan for senior people to get on board soon.

7. Brief evaluation of the Forum and Issues to take forward

- Malcolm from Irish Aid was very pleased with the Forum, although concerned about our choice of municipal capacity proxy.
- In terms of method, outcomes can serve as a guide for research, adding historical context and governance.
- William and Abri can talk to municipalities about WD on 19-20 April at the City Managers Forum meeting.
- WG needs to improve communication, e.g. issue a press statement and through WIN.
- Facilitators worked well as a team.
- Don't lose energy from the Forum, need to get on with research and see what "real stuff" comes up.
- Invite the CEO from Bloem Water (Nolene Morris) to join the WG, if possible as a representative of SAAWU. Make sure that she understands that WD is looking at retail, not bulk water.
- Mary's good organising made the Forum successful.
- Happy and surprised about how well the Forum went and the results of dialogue (everyone realising they are equally unhappy).
- Remember that the Code of Conduct is an indication of organisations' commitment to the process.

8. Next Working Group meeting

Since we are unlikely to have research findings to discuss, it was agreed to use the same dates and to WRC to host in Pretoria.

9. Farewell to Abri

The WG gave Abri a card signed by WG members (signed at the Forum) and a gift voucher from Exclusive Books as an indication of its great appreciation for Abri's significant input and support that has helped get WD-SA on a firm footing to succeed.

Next Working Group meeting: 16-17 May 2007