

**TMG AQUIFER FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PILOT PROJECT:
EXPLORATORY PHASE EIA PROCESS**

**MINUTES OF FIRST PUBLIC MEETING
Kathleen Murray Primary School, Grabouw, 29 April 2004**

ATTENDANCE:

Attendees:

JJ Ruiters (Theewater Agricultural Education and Training)
J Booyen (Klipfontein Landbou Trust)
K Fortuin (Klipfontein Landbou Trust)

Study Team:

Proponent

Mike Killick (City of Cape Town: Bulkwater) MK

TMG Aquifer Alliance

Doreen Februarie (Nosipho Consultancy)	DF
Duma Mningiswa (Nosipho Consultancy)	DM
Karen Shippey (Ninham Shand)	KS
Charl de Villiers (Ninham Shand)	CDV
Penelope Jones (Ninham Shand)	PLJ
Chris Hartnady (Umvoto)	CH

Apologies: none

1 Welcome and Introduction

DF welcomed everyone and briefly introduced the study team. She noted that the structure of the meeting would be kept informal since there were only three attendees. She indicated that although the presentations would be referred to, they would not be presented in detail.

2 Background to the Study ~ Mike Killick

MK provided a brief background to the TMG Aquifer study, including water demand management options currently being implemented and other schemes being investigated (Appendix A).

2.1 J Ruiters queried whether the Cape Flats Aquifer might be utilised. MK responded that the Cape Flats Aquifer is a potential resource for the future, but much information is already known about it. In contrast, very little is known about the TMG Aquifer, hence the reason for this investigation.

3 Hydrogeology and TMG Aquifer ~ Chris Hartnady

CH provided a brief introduction to hydrogeology and the TMG aquifer (Appendix B).

2.2 J Ruiters queried whether aquifers had been utilised extensively in other countries. CH responded that aquifers in Western United States, such as the Dakota aquifer and others, are utilised extensively. The TMG Aquifer is unique in that it is very thick, deep and highly fractured.

2.3 J Ruiters raised the concern that the water sources are being developed for the City of Cape Town rather than for meeting the needs of the surrounding towns and farms. The smaller towns are also growing and their demands for water are increasing, yet these demands are not being met. He noted that the small and emerging farmers also need to be considered, some of whom cannot even get water allocations.

MK responded that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) would give the highest priority to resource poor farmers and would have to weigh up the City's claim for water vs. the claims of resource-poor farmers. DWAF's view is that the needs of an area must be met before transporting water or allocating water to other areas. He noted that the Berg Water Project (Skuifraam Dam) was not only for utilisation by the City.

4 The EIA Process ~ Charl de Villiers

CDV provided a brief overview of the EIA Process (Appendix C).

4.1 J Ruiters noted that he respects the views of the scientists involved in this project and trusts that the environmental aspects will be closely monitored by those who are knowledgeable about the environment.

4.2 J Booysen stated that the boreholes on his farm need to be pumped and are not artesian. He stated that when a borehole had been drilled in Laingsburg, the water had gushed out of the hole and he noted that the water pressure can be very powerful.

5 General Discussion

5.1 MK noted that this study is of regional importance and would not just benefit the City of Cape Town.

5.2 J Ruiters stated that this study is a positive step and it is important that we learn more about the aquifer.

5.3 J Booysen noted that it is obvious that there is a shortage of water in the entire region.

5.4 J Ruiters noted that water conservation education is necessary. He stated that there should be programmes to teach people about the importance of saving water e.g. fixing leaking taps etc. MK responded that the City's aim of implementing the water demand packages was to reduce water demand by as much as 20%, partly through user education.

5.5 DF queried whether there were specific programmes to educate people. MK responded that education materials are shared with local authorities and regular meetings are held with them.

6 Way Forward and Closure

DF thanked the attendees for attending the public meeting and for the comments and questions raised. She then briefly presented the way forward, indicating that the next step was the compilation and lodging of a Draft Scoping Report. She stated that all registered I&APs would be notified of the lodging of the report and that minutes of the public meeting would be circulated to all attendees.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was closed at approximately 20h10.

