



**Minutes of the KCC Meeting held in the Albany Museum Education Department
at 16h00 on Thursday 1 October 2009**

1. Welcome	
<p>Jim Cambray (Chair) welcomed Angela Barberton (KCC champion), Kevin Bates (Makana Municipality), Jim Davis (citizen), Irene de Moor (WESSA), Esté Coetzee (Rotary, MTPP), Helen Fox (IWR), Nick James (Ezemvelo Rivendell), David Knowles (GRASS, SRC), Nikki Köhly (minutes), Lorraine Mullins (WESSA), Ndumiso Nongwe (Makana Municipality), Jonathan Pryor (WfW), Bilal Randeree (RU student), Roman Tandlich (RU Pharmacy Dept), and Michael Whisson (Makana Municipality) – a special welcome to our Citizen of the Year!</p>	
<p>Apologies: Jenny Gon (WESSA), Quintus Hahndiek (DEDEA), Wayne Rathbone (KC), Elspeth Whitfield (KC), Emily Jones (GRASS).</p>	
2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 13 August 2009	
<p>The minutes of the previous meeting, with corrections, were APPROVED.</p>	
3 Makana Municipality accountability	ACTION
<p>3.1 Water supply crisis: Settlers Dam (feeding Howison’s Poort Dam & Waainek Water Treatment Works) is 9% full. Orange-Fish River water (feeding Glen Melville Dam & James Kleynhans WTW), which can only reach about ¾ of Grahamstown, is limited by upstream demands and over-allocation of water from the Gariep Dam.</p>	<p>MAKANA MUNICIPALITY ACTIONS END OF DOC</p>
<p>3.2 Water restrictions: It is a grave concern that Makana Municipality brought in water restrictions so late. Restrictions used to be phased in when dam levels reached 40% but apparently a High Court Judgement has set it at 20%. The committee which made the recommendation only meets every 6 weeks, Council met 10 days later, and disagreements over wording delayed the process further. Inertia at every level of government is a problem.</p>	
<p>(a) Enforcement: Residents do not appear to be concerned about water (most assume there is plenty of Fish River water; downstream riparian farmers have reportedly been irrigating 24 hours a day). Restrictions are not being monitored or enforced & officials don’t have the authority to issue spot fines. Municipal loss of water – between supply dams and users – accounts for more than 20% of water wasted (this is common, according to Prof Denis Hughes). In Xolani (Grahamstown East), water is cut off during office hours. This is unconstitutional; the Municipality should rather decrease water pressure.</p>	
<p>(b) Grocott’s Mail: A high profile article in Grocott’s Mail is essential, including the fact that Orange-Fish River water from Gariep Dam is not an infinite resource.</p>	<p>KÖHLY</p>
<p>(c) Radio Grahamstown: Apollis Slingers to be approached to publicise water supply issue regularly on Radio Grahamstown.</p>	<p>BARBERTON</p>
<p>(d) Water pamphlet: Water saving tips pamphlet (see <i>attached draft</i>). To be sent to Municipal Manager / Chief Financial Officer for inclusion in Municipal accounts (see 3.11.b). Pharmacy students – who have well-established working relationship with community – to be asked to distribute it door to door in Grahamstown East.</p>	<p>KÖHLY TANDLICH</p>
<p>3.3 Waterless sanitation: With growing water crisis, there is concern over potable water being used to flush toilets. Poor residents cannot afford to pay plumbers to repair leaks. The Environmental Manager met with DBSA water engineer¹ and Municipal Manager regarding waterless sanitation. Nikki will be asked to give a presentation on waterless sanitation to other senior officials who still have concerns about it. It was noted that the Director of Finance is interested in waterless urinals for Rhodes Univer-</p>	<p>NONGWE KÖHLY</p>

¹ Development Bank of Southern Africa water engineer at Makana Municipality: Mr Mlungisi Gila [MlungisiG@dbsa.org]

city.	
3.4 Water harvesting: According to the district manager, DWEA ² is very positive about water harvesting. Water tanks on properties can supply gardens and drinking water.	
3.5 Water recycling: A pilot project in Alexandria is successfully generating potable water from sewerage, as in Windhoek. EBRU has the technology to do this in Grahams-town. Governmental inertia is the problem.	
3.6 Algal Ponding System: Nikki sent EBRU's APS information to Martha Letsoalo and is awaiting her response.	LETSOALO
3.7 Protection of spring / umthombo project: A site meeting was held on held on 9 September with the spring sub-committee, Afri-Coast Engineering and Makana Municipality (see <i>attached minutes</i>). They will remain consultative after work begins.	BATES
3.8 Proposed Albany Regional Water Supply Scheme: Jim contacted the Makana Municipal Manager about an outside consultants' assessment of this proposal and is awaiting her response. Angela reminded Nikki to contact her son who is in a position to investigate the legality of the proposed scheme.	CAMBRAY KÖHLY
3.9 Water quality issues and Makana Municipality:	
(a) Low-cost water quality test project: Roman has circulated an updated proposal for the implementation of an early-warning system for the detection of faecal contamination in Grahamstown's drinking water supply. It aims to involve the community as <i>citizen scientists</i> , as well as establishing a <i>certified water testing laboratory</i> at Rhodes University in collaboration with Makana Municipality. Initially water samples will be done once a week. The results will be made available to the public.	TANDLICH
(b) Drinking water quality data: It appears that Makana Municipality only submits <i>E.coli</i> test results (from Johann Esterhuizen), not chemical test results (from Martha Letsoalo) to the District Environmental Health Authority. This means that, based on only one score, Makana Municipality water health is passed. At least 20 parameters should be measured. Roman was commended for initiating his project as a first step.	LETSOALO TANDLICH
(c) Makana Environmental Monitoring Committee proposal: Irene de Moor learned that WasteTec in PE only set up an EMC to satisfy permit requirements. Her lawyer daughter has initiated enquiries about EMCs. She also suggested that the Access to Information Act could be used to force Makana Municipality to release water quality data every 3 days – as stipulated by the Drinking Water Quality Framework at http://www.dwaf.gov.za/Documents/Other/DWQM/DWQMFrameworkDec05.pdf	DE MOOR
3.10 Municipal information notices: Nikki emailed Johan Esterhuizen regarding more efficient use of paper, suggesting automatic inclusion of information on the 2-bag system, garden waste facilities, etc. She awaits his response.	KÖHLY ESTERHUIZEN
3.11 Makana Environmental Forum meetings:	
(a) Minutes: Nikki and Lorraine agreed to assist Ndumiso in minute-taking until he is happy to take full responsibility. The minutes of the 28 July MEF meeting have not been circulated; Nongwe should be reminded.	KÖHLY NONGWE
(b) Meeting with Julie Wells: Jim, Nikki, Jenny and Lorraine met with Julie Wells on 18 September (see <i>attached minutes</i>). It was noted that the KCC valued the participation of Municipal officials such as Kevin and Ndumiso at its KCC meetings. Clr Wells requested the KCC to create a pamphlet of water saving tips for the Municipality.	KÖHLY
3.12 Municipal funding for KCC (R25 000): Julie Wells said that this had never been put to Council for approval, but Michael saw R25,000 quoted in a Council doc. Kevin asked Marius Crous (Treasury Dept) to assist but he couldn't find the money. He hopes it will appear in one of his environmental budgets this year.	BATES
3.13 Municipal maintenance of areas handed over by WfW: Grey Dam, Hillsvew, Mt Drive & Featherstone Kloof are now the Municipality's responsibility. Five blocks	BATES

² DWEA = Department of Water & Environmental Affairs (previously DWAF).

have been put out to contractors (first vetted by Jonathan). It was noted that dieback of poisoned plants is less successful if done during winter. The small dam above the N2, opposite the Monument turnoff, was rebuilt using bypass slip. Gouges in the mountain near Waainek WTW (opposite Rautenbach Rd entrance) have also been refilled. Contractors gave quotes on Slaaikraal in May but are still waiting for the Municipality to respond and release funds. This is problematic as IAP regrowth is getting out of hand.	
4 Issues of concern	ACTION
4.1 Sewage leak hotspots:	
(a) <i>Public awareness:</i> Jim has received no further tip-offs from the public.	
(b) <i>Sewage leak updates:</i> A chronic sewage leak near the SPCA has filled a trench with raw sewage; a blockage was caused by Correctional Services overalls. A chronic leak near Graeme College appears to be linked to the new Oatlands Park developments.	
4.2 Carwash runoff: The Municipal Manager told Esté that they are negotiating with an existing car wash group. They will submit a business plan to the Municipality's special projects manager. If approved, they will rent the site. The original builder said that recycling the water was feasible. Given the water shortage, it should be reconsidered.	
4.3 Dumping hotspots:	
(a) <i>Landfill dumping on 2a Beaufort Street:</i> The Municipal Manager and Town Planner have not updated Jim on Pierre Ranchod's dumping.	CAMBRAY
(b) <i>Landfill dumping in Lavender Valley:</i> This is being addressed (see 6.5).	
(c) <i>Hillsvie-Hope & Robinson St:</i> The site on Robinson St has now been fenced off. Nikki reported the domestic and garden waste at the top of Hope St to Phumzile Smile ³ on 14 Sept. Parks & Recreation will deal with it.	BATES
(d) <i>York Street:</i> Nothing further to report.	CAMBRAY
(e) <i>Wood Street:</i> The field has been cleaned but the ditch and culvert are blocked with rubbish. This should be dealt with through the Vukani Greening Project.	
4.4 IAP (Invasive Alien Plant) hotspots:	
(a) <i>Working for Water update:</i> WfW is moving through Stones Hill, currently on Rob Beer's property; then to du Toit and Basil Mills. Also dealing with heavily infested area west of Grahamstown, moving towards N2 from Antrobus farm. This will release more water into Settlers and Howison's Poort dams. Problems with landowners who are reluctant to sign directives or don't know where their boundaries are. Dept of Agriculture has given Jacot until Dec to clean up or else they will take him to court. Hillandale always pays WfW contractors timeously. It was noted that large gum trees are trimmed and left as WfW does not have sufficient time / funds to cut them up. Pine trees are retrieved by Makana Meadery for making bee hives.	PRYOR
(b) <i>Urban areas:</i> Neighbours should work together to lobby the Municipality in keeping IAPs cleared (see 6.2).	
5 KCC projects and publicity	ACTION
5.1 KCC website: An objection to Xhosa names for Kowie and Blaaukrantz (Coyi / iQoyi and Amatyana) on Lorraine's map at http://www.kowiecatchmentcampaign.org.za/ was countered by view that this reflects our cultural diversity. Also, many older people only know the Xhosa names of local streams.	
5.2 Grahamstown water history project: The revised manuscript and figures have been submitted. Efforts to raise R20,000 to fund printing have so far been unsuccessful.	MULLINS CAMBRAY
5.3 Kowie Catchment Open Space Initiative (KCOSI): No further progress.	KÖHLY
5.4 IAP publicity – Dept of Agriculture: Nikki contacted Shirley Cowling, the provincial WfW IAP communications person, ⁴ but she replied that she could not assist.	

³ Report dumping to Mr David Dell: 046-603.6100 or leave message with Mr Smile at 603.6086.

⁴ Shirley Cowling: scowling@kingsley.co.za

However, Jonathan established that Shirley is employed to publicise IAP issues (advertising, pamphlet distribution, etc). The next attempt will be more carefully worded.	PRYOR KÖHLY
6 Champions' civic action	
6.1 Green Revolutions and Social Solutions (GRASS): David Knowles introduced himself as the 2010 Chair of GRASS, and new SRC Environmental Councillor. He aims to collaborate with the KCC and promote community engagement among the students.	
6.2 Hillsview-Hope: Thanks are due to Essie Esterhuizen for assisting with the Afrikaans translation of the <i>Healthy Hillsview Hope</i> pamphlet. It was noted that a draft was sent to Mr Cecil Solomon to adapt for his neighbourhood. Help is needed for the Xhosa translation; approach person at Cory Library or Shelly Roodt. The pamphlet should be placed on the website and publicised in the Makana Enviro News.	KÖHLY GON
6.3 Grey Dam and Commonage: PJ Olivier has built 4 concrete braai areas (with whose authority?) and a pump house at Grey Dam. It was suggested that this does not 'pay' for the water the school extracts from the dam; they should take responsibility for cleaning up on a regular basis (clean-ups should not be used as punishment). The headmaster should be approached.	BATES
6.4 Woest Hill: It was noted that an unidentified group is making regular use of the quarry area, making campfires, destroying habitat and ecosystem functions. Kevin has asked his team to clean up the area. It was suggested that Mark Hazell, Dominic Thornburn and Josh Paton be approached to keep an eye on the area and inform Kevin if they see the group.	BATES
6.5 Sun City & Lavender Valley: Earth moving equipment has replaced topsoil on top of the building rubble, and a 'no dumping' sign will be erected. Esté plans to link environmental clean-ups with a feeding scheme, starting at Sun City Pre-school. Mr Cecil Solomon, who lives in the area, is concerned about the litter and stray cattle in the area. Lavender Valley is one of the DEAT Greening Projects (R5 mill) to be upgraded. Esté met with Ms Baart, Mr Esterhuizen and Mr Nongwe to discuss options. Council plans to buy a vehicle for loading cattle. Dumping of building rubble should be reported to the Engineers Office (Building Inspector). Homeowners who report the dumping tend to be the best community watchdogs.	COETZEE
6.6 Inter-Interact Clubs of Grahamstown (ICOG): A new Board has been elected and new projects will be identified next year. Youth Development Day is on 11 Oct.	COETZEE
6.7 Ezemvelo Community / Rivendell Forest Nursery: Nick is receiving many requests for trees, but they will take a while to grow. The partnership with MTPP continues.	JAMES
6.8 Featherstone Kloof: Before the rains, the lower Kowie River was a trickle. Near the Bloukrans Pool there is littering and removal of trees. The owner of Kanie Fish Farm near Port Alfred (Emile Viljoen) has introduced Nile Tilapia into the system; these are potentially invasive.	JAMES
6.9 Thomas Baines: A recent fish survey indicated that there are only indigenous fish above the Banfield weir.	
6.10 World Water Monitoring Day: Roman would like more kits. GRASS can collect samples around town as part of their Digs Greening initiative. Jim noted that we need a school to test water quality from the Spring then along the river course to where it enters the Bloukrans River. Roman said that he was interested in this activity.	TANDLICH CAMBRAY
Meeting ended: 18h10	
8. Date of next meeting:	
<u>Thursday 3 December 2009, Thomas Baines Nature Reserve, 16h00</u>	

2010 meetings: 4 Feb, 1 Apr, 3 Jun, 5 Aug, 7 Oct, 2 Dec.

KCC committee & key supporters:

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Attachments: KCC Minutes 09-09-18 meet w Julie Wells [FINAL]
Spring Meeting KCC report 09-09-09[NK1]

1 October 2009 KCC summary of required Makana Municipality ACTIONS:**COMMUNICATION:**

1. Publicise drinking water quality data every 3 days – as per Drinking Water Quality Framework at <http://www.dwaf.gov.za/Documents/Other/DWQM/DWQMFrameworkDec05.pdf>
2. Provide water supply dam level figures to the public.

WATER RESTRICTIONS:

3. Decrease water pressure instead of cutting off water supplies in Grahamstown East.
4. Enforce water restrictions and give officials authority to issue spot fines.
5. Water saving tips pamphlet to be finalised, printed and distributed.
6. Actively pursue waterless sanitation options.
7. Actively support water harvesting (e.g. purchase water tanks for poor households).
8. Reconsider recycling water at Beaufort Street carwash.

SEWAGE LEAKS:

9. Attend to chronic sewage leaks near SPCA.
10. Attend to chronic sewage leaks near Graeme College.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

11. Pursue Pierre Ranchod re landfill dumping at 2a Beaufort St.
12. Remove garden & domestic waste at top of Hope Street and help create flower bed in its place.
13. Ensure the Wood Street site is appropriately upgraded through the Vukani Greening Project.

INVASIVE ALIEN MANAGEMENT:

14. Release funds for contractors to maintain Slaaikraal area before IAP regrowth gets completely out of hand.

FUNDING

15. Treasury to locate R25,000 for KCC in this year's budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

16. PJ Olivier should be approached to commit itself to keeping the Grey Dam area clean.