



## Minutes of the KCC Meeting held in the RU Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) at 16h00 on Thursday 23 June 2011

### 1. WELCOME

Jim Cambray (Chair) welcomed Angela Barberton (KCC); Kevin Bates (Makana Parks); Jai Clifford-Holmes (Galela Amanzi); Este Coetzee (MTPP); Jenny Gon (WESSA); Nick James (Oldenburgia Cons); Nikki Köhly (minutes); Prudence Mini (Grocott’s Mail); Lorraine Mullins (WESSA); Floyd Musekwa (Grocott’s Mail); Jonathan Pryor (Albany WfW); Lelethu Sawuti (ECPTA); Andrew Slaughter (IWR).

**Apologies:** Ferdy de Moor; Irene de Moor; Don Hendry; Rob O’Donoghue.

### 2. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr Cambray announced that it would be a special meeting for various reasons. (a) The KCC now has a treasurer, Este Coetzee, (b) Andrew Slaughter graduated with a PhD in April, and (c) special flowers and bubbly were presented to Mr Lorraine Mullins, author of *Grahamstown’s Water Supply: a brief history from 1812 to 2008*. This publication is now out and available in pdf format, visit the KCC website for details. Congratulations on excellent work!

### 3. WATER SUPPLY ISSUES

#### ACTION

#### 3.1 WATER RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

a) **Water leaks:** Mrs Coetzee noted that sms submissions to Grocott’s Mail about water leaks are readily published. The water leak which goes through Goodwin’s Kloof near the bible monument is ongoing; it was PROPOSED that the pipeline in question should be closed.

**Mrs Coetzee** ask Community Police Forum and **Mr Nongwe** to encourage community champions to report leaks.<sup>1</sup>  
**Dr Cambray** ask Mr Mabece about leak at Goodwin Kloof.

b) **Pipeline from James Kleynhans WTW:** Mr C-Holmes reported that five (5) months after the PAIA<sup>2</sup> request via PSAM, Makana Municipality released the requested information. The committee RECEIVED copies of the compilation of reports, water-related documents, minutes, and loan agreement (totalling R50 million) between Makana Municipality and the DBSA for an additional pipeline to Botha’s Hill and Grahamstown. Mr Whitford (GRA) found the report to be accurate, but noted it does not represent a full scale analysis of the system. Concern was expressed regarding (i) lack of transparency regarding how the R50 million is being spent; and (ii) lack of funding allocation for the overloaded sewerage infrastructure. Mr C-Holmes was thanked for his efforts. It was AGREED that a water expert should examine the reports and present the main salient points to the committee.

**Dr Slaughter** scrutinise reports and update KCC.

c) **Repair of Jameson Dam (Slaaikraal) valve:** Ms Köhly contacted Mr Norton who said repair of the standing tower valves was not required; these have been open for decades, and feed a pipeline to Milner Dam below. It was NOTED with concern that Mr Norton is the only person who can operate local

**Mr James** write follow-up article for Grocott’s Mail.

<sup>1</sup> Makana toll free number: 080 111 8888; Grocott’s Mail sms: 082 049 2146.

<sup>2</sup> PAIA: Promotion of Access to Information Act.

dam valves. Slaaikraal water is fed by gravity to the old Grahamstown filtration plant (near top of Worcester Street), which can be pumped to Waainek if necessary. The off-take of water from this system is not monitored, which may explain why Jameson Dam was so low. It was AGREED that the public should be properly informed.	
d) <b>Status of James Kleynhans WTW and pumps:</b> Mr Mabece emailed <u>Dr Cambray</u> that the tender for the JK upgrade closed today.	
e) <b>Waainek Water Treatment Works:</b> It was noted that a Waainek pump had broken and was sent away for repairs (Sulter Pumps, CT), even though Makana Municipality had assured the public that further failures would be prevented through use of competent maintenance contractors. There was concern that water cuts during the National Arts Festival could have catastrophic impacts.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> liaise with Makana Municipality about pump maintenance.
f) <b>Water Indaba feedback:</b> <u>Dr Cambray</u> emailed the Municipal Manager about the 24 February meeting, which the KCC did not consider to be properly constituted and which indicated a need for more appropriate communication with stakeholders. He had not received a reply to date.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> follow up with <b>Mr Nongwe</b> .
<b>3.2 WATER SUPPLY DAMS:</b>	
a) <b>Publication of dam levels:</b> <u>Dr Cambray</u> noted that 13 June dam levels were online at <a href="http://www.makana.gov.za">www.makana.gov.za</a> . Some dams have measuring sticks, but it is unclear where other dam level figures come from.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> ask Mr Mabece how figures for website are verified.
b) <b>Profiling of dams:</b> Information on amount of silt affecting dam capacity has still not been received from <u>Mr Mabece's</u> office.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> follow up with Mr Mabece.
c) <b>Gariiep Dam quota:</b> <u>Dr Cambray</u> contacted Mr Mabece about this. The response was that he was trying to increase Grahamstown's water quota from the Gariiep Dam.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> ask Mr Mabece what amount was requested, and caution against reliance on Gariiep Dam.
d) <b>Legality of private dams:</b> <u>Ms Mini</u> had difficulty obtaining information from the manager of Pumba about their dams. DWA and Mr Mabece assured her that the legality of the dams would be investigated further. It was noted that the upper Kariega started flowing after recent heavy rains.	<b>Mr Clifford-Holmes &amp; Prof Ellery</b> discuss with Prof Hughes and Ms Haller-Barker.  <b>Ms Köhly</b> send copy of National Water Act to Dale Howarth at Pumba.
<b>3.3 INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS WATER SUPPLY ISSUES:</b>	
a) <b>Water restrictions:</b> No update received from the Municipality.	<b>Ms Köhly</b> ask <b>Mr Nongwe</b> re status of restrictions.
b) <b>Collaborative approach:</b> <u>Mr C-Holmes</u> reported that Rhodes University leadership advocates a non-confrontational relationship with the municipality, focussing on constructive action and positive outcomes. The Director of RU Community Engagement (Mrs Hornby) is liaising with the director of Umthathi Training Project (Mrs Mitchener) who is drawing up a proposal for a Swedish-funded SUS ( <i>Supporting Urban Sustainability</i> ) programme. This could serve as a scaffold for a collaborative approach with the municipality in engaging the community on water concerns. The KCC will be invited to a stakeholder meeting to be held end July / early August.	<b>Mr Clifford-Holmes</b> keep KCC informed.

4. DRINKING WATER QUALITY	ACTION
<b>4.1 MUNICIPAL WATER QUALITY TESTING:</b>	
a) <b>Blue Drop campaign:</b> <u>Dr Gon</u> noted that the My Water section of the DWAF website <sup>3</sup> was updated in May.	
b) <b>Frequency of testing:</b> It was noted that Amatola Water conducts monthly water tests for Makana.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> follow up.
c) <b>Publicising water quality data:</b> The last water quality report at <a href="http://www.makana.gov.za">www.makana.gov.za</a> is March 2011. It was noted that the LHID (Land, Housing & Infrastructural Development) portfolio committee, which assesses the results, has apparently not met since, due to the elections. The KCC commends Makana for making the data public, and respectfully requests that test results are provided monthly.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> liaise with Mr Mabece.
<b>4.2 INDEPENDENT WATER QUALITY RESEARCH:</b> <u>Dr Tandlich</u> emailed an update to Ms Köhly regarding the low-cost water quality testing project. They have started independent monitoring of the microbial water quality at 10 water distribution sites in Grahamstown. Staff and Pharmacy Dept students collect the samples and a post-grad student carries out analyses. Results are compared with tests done by the SABS-accredited Grahamstown Veterinary Laboratory (Dr Pistorius and Mrs Brandt). Dissemination of their findings to the general public needs to be discussed.	<b>Ms Köhly</b> liaise with Dr Tandlich.
5. SEWAGE MANAGEMENT	ACTION
<b>5.1 GREEN DROP CAMPAIGN:</b> No update received.	<b>Dr Gon</b> check Green Drop website.
<b>5.2 SEWAGE LEAKS:</b> It was noted with concern that many leaks around Grahamstown have still not been repaired.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> contact <b>Mr Hahndiek</b> re liaison with DWAF Head Office in Cradock.
<b>5.3 DEDEA COMPLIANCE NOTICE:</b> No update received on Municipal response.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> contact <b>Mr Hahndiek</b> re Municipal response.
6. OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN	ACTION
<b>6.1 INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS:</b>	
a) <b>Working for Water update:</b> <u>Mr Pryor</u> reported that work has been completed on the southern slopes of Featherstone Kloof west side, towards the N2. Work is currently being carried out on the northern slopes towards the Toposcope and Woest Hill, moving eastwards towards the west end of Bothas River, Hillsvie and Stones Hill area. Four big contracts have been completed on Coleridge farm and also at Pumba. Future work includes the Belmont Valley, beginning at Fort England. This involves 8 contractors (12 crew per team). There is 1 contractor at Pumba. In response to a question about IAPs along the N2, it was noted that WfW does not touch these due to associated risks and public liability issues. <u>Prof Hendry</u> wrote to compliment Mr Pryor on “the great alien clearing job in the valley above Grey Dam” and <u>Ms Köhly</u> thanked	

<sup>3</sup> Blue drop site: [www.dwa.gov.za/dir\\_ws/DWQR/](http://www.dwa.gov.za/dir_ws/DWQR/) → Grahamstown’s own page is at [www.dwa.gov.za/dir\\_ws/DWQR/Default.asp?PageID=7&PageHeading=My Water](http://www.dwa.gov.za/dir_ws/DWQR/Default.asp?PageID=7&PageHeading=My%20Water)

<p>him for their work in the Hillsview area. <u>Mr Mullins</u> requested that follow-ups are done before the IAPs get too tall; this would be more cost-effective and sustainable. However, it was noted that the WfW budget has been static for years, which poses a significant challenge in terms of labour and follow-up efforts. It was again noted that the KCC RECOMMENDS that WfW expands its workforce and budget.</p>	
<p>b) <b>Municipal IAP control:</b> It was noted that the Municipality has neglected IAP invasions in the Kariega and Slaaikraal areas; these catchments feeds municipal supply dams. Research on the release of water as a result of IAP clearance could provide suitable justification for allocation of municipal budget to IAP clearance.</p>	<p><b>Dr Slaughter</b> encourage IWR research on effect of IAP clearance on water flow.</p>
<p>c) <b>IAPs in residential areas:</b> <u>Mrs Coetzee</u> noted that workers in the Municipal Dept of Parks appear to be ignorant of the status of invasive plants, and simply prune them neatly instead of removing them. It was noted that since the recent heavy rains, the Waainek cemetery water table is so high that it is interfering with burials, and there have been mudslides at the caravan park. It was suggested that the 1820 settlers may have planted gums to counteract this.</p>	<p><b>Mr Bates</b> train Parks staff to identify common IAPs in Grahamstown.</p>
<p>d) <b>IAPs on road verges:</b> <u>Mr Bates</u> asked Mr Thys Groenewald to meet with himself and <u>Mr Pryor</u> to address this concern. It was suggested that the Provincial Roads Dept might cover the costs of Albany WfW's liability cover, in case of accidents.</p>	<p><b>Mr Bates</b> and <b>Mr Pryor</b> meet with Mr Groenewald.</p>
<p>e) <b>Fairview Nature Reserve:</b> <u>Mr Kruiskamp</u> told Ms Köhly that he has a team clearing IAPs. They are spraying Lantana with 2% Roundup; however, <u>Mr Pryor</u> noted that the correct strength is 5%. It was noted that the property was totally clear when WfW handed it over approx 6 years ago, but that the wildlife has hardly any grazing due to unchecked IAP regrowth.</p>	
<p>f) <b>Database of IAP distribution:</b> <u>Mrs Coetzee</u> asked <u>Ms Moeller</u> about developing a database as a RU Geography Dept project; this has in fact already been done and data exist. However this might differ from what the KCC has in mind; this needs to be clarified with Dr Gillian McGregor in Geography.</p>	<p><b>Mrs Coetzee</b> liaise with Dr McGregor in Geography Dept.</p>
<p><b>6.2 DUMPING:</b></p>	
<p>a) <b>Urban:</b> Concern was expressed at the ugliness of garden waste containers and surrounding mess. The one advantage is that the mess is at least concentrated in one area.</p>	<p><b>Mr Bates</b> ensure regular removal of skip waste.</p>
<p>b) <b>Commonage:</b> <u>Mrs Barberton</u> noted that the Spring Greening Project workers dumped piles of waste beside the pretty little dam at the top of Woest Hill. This needs to be removed as soon as possible.</p>	<p><b>Mr Bates</b> ensure waste removed at top of Woest Hill.</p>
<p><b>6.3 CARWASH UPDATE:</b> <u>Mrs Coetzee</u> recently had her car washed there and noted that the facility is busy and employs a number of young people. It is important that the waste water is correctly channelled.</p>	<p><b>Mrs Coetzee</b> check if waste water is correctly channelled.</p>
<p><b>6.4 DEVELOPMENT:</b></p>	
<p>a) <b>CBD flats:</b> <u>Mrs Barberton:</u> noted with concern that large amounts of topsoil are being removed at building sites in the centre of town and taken to the landfill site. This is an irresponsible squandering of a valuable resource, considering food shortage issues. The soil should be redirected so that community gardens can use it for food growing etc.</p>	<p><b>Mr Bates</b> instruct builders to include cost of topsoil transport in contract.</p> <p><b>Dr Cambray</b> liaise with Ms Mitchener regarding</p>

	creation of topsoil depot in Grahamstown East.
b) <b>Belmont Valley Golf Estate:</b> An April 1 front page article in Grocott's Mail (not a joke) indicated that Mr Davies is very serious about developing a shopping centre at the current golf club and moving the golf course to Belmont Valley. The KCC AGREED to collaborate with the local branch of WESSA, which is closely monitoring the proposed project.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> liaise with Ght WESSA committee.
c) <b>SABC building on Mt Drive:</b> <u>Mr Bates</u> reported that Mrs Banks invited him to visit the building. The Oldenburgia Conservancy ExCo will visit the Banks property within two weeks.	<b>Mr Bates</b> visit Mrs Banks.
c) <b>SAPS mast on Mt Drive:</b> <u>Mrs Barberton</u> received a letter of response from SK consulting, which conducted the EIA, and noted that the process did not comply with a number of requirements. She has written to the EP Herald and Grocott's Mail about it, and has requested Mr Bates to resolve the matter.	<b>Mr Bates</b> liaise with Municipal Manager regarding irregular EIA.
<b>7. WATER SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>7.1 WATERLESS SANITATION:</b> <u>Ms Sawuti</u> reported that the Thomas Baines toilets are operating successfully, but noted that users (often youngsters) tend to be careless, and that repairs by SANIX are costly. Odour is a problem when there are power cuts, as the fans stop running. <u>Ms Köhly</u> has heard that the ELRC toilet is not functioning properly. It was noted that there will be limited up-take of this technology if there are ongoing issues and negative feedback.	<b>Ms Köhly</b> follow up with supplier.
<b>7.2 RAINWATER HARVESTING:</b> <u>Mr C-Holmes</u> reported that Galela Amanzi is shifting towards skills-based rainwater harvesting, rather than infrastructure based, in their workshops.	<b>Mr Clifford-Holmes</b> report back.
<b>7.3 GREY WATER RE-USE:</b> No further update from <u>Mr Render</u> on EBRU <sup>4</sup> extension of Algal Ponding System beside the Belmont Valley Sewage Treatment Works.	<b>Mr Render</b> report back.
<b>8. KCC PROJECTS &amp; PUBLICITY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>8.1 PROTECTION OF SPRING / UMTHOMBO PROJECT:</b>	
a) <b>Africoast Engineers:</b> <u>Mr Bates</u> reported that the project will be completed at the end of July.	
b) <b>Civic efforts:</b> <u>Mrs Barberton</u> reported that the Greening Project workers have unnecessarily cut down all the plants and removed some of her paving at the original collection site, which has made it unsightly and muddy for current users. Improvements on the north side look very nice.	<b>Mrs Barberton</b> monitor project.
<b>8.2 KCC WEBSITE</b> <a href="http://WWW.KOWIECATCHMENTCAMPAIGN.ORG.ZA">WWW.KOWIECATCHMENTCAMPAIGN.ORG.ZA</a> : <u>Dr Slaughter</u> will carry out further updates and upload the Grahamstown water history document.	<b>Dr Slaughter</b> update website.
<b>8.3 GRAHAMSTOWN WATER HISTORY PROJECT:</b> Mr Mullins expressed gratitude to the KCC, and particularly to Dr Cambray, for supporting him during this project. It was noted that <i>Grahamstown's Water Supply: a brief history from 1812 to 2008</i> will serve as a valuable reference for schools and postgraduate research. 300 copies have been printed, and the KCC has 50 copies to distribute to libraries and research and learning facilities. The document can also be downloaded as a PDF from the KCC website.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> check if copies may be purchased through the Albany Museum.

<sup>4</sup> Institute for Environmental Biotechnology (EBRU): [www.ru.ac.za/static/institutes/ebru](http://www.ru.ac.za/static/institutes/ebru)

<b>8.4 KCC CHAMPIONS:</b> No reports due to time constraints.	
<b>8.5 KCC FINANCES:</b> Dr Cambray noted that Mrs Coetzee has agreed to be the KCC treasurer. The KCC account will be moved to a local bank, as none of Dr Cambray's previous Albany Museum colleagues were willing to manage it.	<b>Dr Cambray and Mrs Coetzee</b> follow up.
<b>9. GENERAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>91. ORANGE RIVER PROJECT:</b> Prof O'Donoghue emailed that he has started developing tests and materials through a project on the Orange River.	
<b>92. RU WATER AWARENESS:</b> It was noted that a water awareness campaign has been initiated by students at Rhodes University.	
<b>93. SWISS FILTER:</b> It was noted that new Swiss nanotechnology has been developed for filtering water. It lasts for 3 years, and can be used to earn carbon credits.	<b>Dr Cambray</b> circulate article.
Meeting ended: 18h05	
<b>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b>	
<b><u>Thursday 8 September 2011, RU Environmental Learning Research Centre, 16h00</u></b>	

**Dates of future 2011 meetings:** September 8, December 1.

<b>KCC committee &amp; key supporters</b>
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