

KEY AUTHORITY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Jade Hill Dam, Ceres – Breede Gourtiz Catchment Management Agency

Venue	Breede Gourtiz Catchment Management Agency Offices, Worcester	Date	20 March 2019	Time	09h00
Chairperson	K. Marias	Minutes prepared by	C. du Preez Scientific Aquatic Services		

Attendees	Company
Ms Kim Marias (KM)	Scientific Aquatic Services (SAS)
Ms Christel du Preez (CdP)	Scientific Aquatic Services
Ms Elkerine Rossouw (ER)	Breede Gourtiz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA)
Ms Philisiwe Ntanzu (PN)	Breede Gourtiz Catchment Management Agency
Ms Inge Erasmus (IE)	EnviroAfrica cc
Ms Lizbe Bester (LB)	Sarel Bester Ingenieurs BK

1.	Welcome and Introduction	Responsibility
	Ms Kim Marias (SAS) (KM) welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the presentation follows the agenda.	
2.	Background and progress to date	
2.1	Ms Christel du Preez (SAS) (CdP) stated that this meeting was to provide feedback with regard to a freshwater verification undertaken by SAS for the proposed Jade Hills Dam (hereafter referred to as the study area).	
2.2	<p>The outcome of the Freshwater Verification</p> <p>CdP proceeded to present the findings of the Freshwater Verification study undertaken by SAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During January 2019, SAS conducted a site verification of a potential watercourse, as identified on the 1:50 000 topographical map and within the footprint area of the proposed dam. ▪ The area in which the proposed dam is located is deemed to be significantly transformed due to extensive cultivation activities within the catchment. This has altered the movement of water in the landscape and impacted the biodiversity thereof. ▪ Given the findings of the investigation, it was concluded that there are no true wetlands or riparian resources within the footprint area of the proposed dam. The footprint area is located within an area where an episodic drainage line is present. This feature is considered to be ecologically degraded. ▪ It is the opinion of the ecologist that the drainage line, from an ecological perspective, does not conform to the definition of a true riparian resource and therefore does not enjoy protection as a watercourse in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) As part of this study, it was recommended that a hydrological floodline study be undertaken, should the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) find it necessary, to determine if a floodline applies to this feature. If a 1:100 year floodline is determined, the drainage line may potentially enjoy protection in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). 	



3.	General Discussion	
3.1	Ms Elkerine Rossouw (ER) (BGCMA) agrees with the findings of the freshwater verification report, as she has also visited the study area. Due to the nature of the identified episodic drainage line and its location with the quaternary catchment (along the boundary of H10C and H10B) , she also confirmed that there is no need for a floodline study to be undertaken.	
3.2	ER stated that although she agrees that it is not a true watercourse, the 1:50 000 topographical map still indicates there is a watercourse there and therefore DWS head office will query why it was not authorised as a Sections 21(c) and (i) water use in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998). She requested that, since a Section 21(a) Water Use Authorisation would be required for the dam (storage capacity of 67 600m ³), the relevant 21(c and (i) DWS forms (DW763 and DW768) be included in the application.	
3.3	ER requested that the DWS Risk Assessment be applied to determine the risk significance of the proposed dam development. She indicated that the findings of the verification report were sufficient to warrant a low risk outcome. Ms Philisiwe Ntanzi (PN) (BGCMA) concurred with this decision.	
3.4	KM indicated that since the drainage line cannot be defined as a true watercourse, the Present Ecological State (PES) and Ecological Importance and Sensitivity (EIS) cannot be calculated and thus will not be included in the consideration of the DWS risk assessment. ER indicated that this is noted and will be considered a limitation to the assessment.	
3.5	Ms Lizbe Bester (LB) stated that the predicted run-off from the drainage feature is approximately 2,000m ³ per annum. Water will be metered entering into the dam (abstracted from groundwater) and when abstracted. It was asked if Ecological Water releases would be required. ER stated that since the system is strongly episodic no ecological releases will be needed.	
4.	The Way Forward & Closure	
4.1	KM confirmed that the DWS Risk Assessment would be applied and the outcome thereof presented in a short memorandum style report to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) of this project, Ms Inge Erasmus (IE) (EnviroAfrica cc). This will then be presented to DWS to ensure that they also agree with the findings and determine to way forward in terms of the water use authorisation for this project.	
4.2	The meeting closed at 09h30.	



