

# DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS



## WATER SECTOR LEADERSHIP GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCO)

### *Minutes of meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at the DWA Offices (661 Waterbron Building - Pretoria)*

#### 1. OPENING

##### 1.1. Welcome Remarks

Ms T Mbassa chaired the meeting – she welcomed all members and apologised for short delay.

##### 1.2. Attendance and Apologies

###### Present

✓ Mr Mthobeli Kolisa	Executive Director: SALGA
✓ Ms Thandeka Mbassa	DDG Regions: DWA
✓ Mr Nandha Govender	ESKOM
✓ Mr Martin Ginster	BUSA/SASOL
✓ Mr Nick Lesufi	SA Chamber of Mines
✓ Mr Mpho Mathabathe	Representative: Civil Society
✓ Mr Malcolm White	Representative: International Development Partners (Irish Aid)
✓ Ms Shantal Harigobin	DWA Policy and Strategy Directorate
✓ Ms Matho Gwala	DWA
✓ Ms Mukondi Madzivhandila	DWA Stakeholder & Protocol Manager: Office of the DG

###### Secretariat Support Team

✓ Ms Tabita Napakade	DWA Sector Collaboration Directorate
✓ Ms Ndala Duma	DWA Sector Collaboration Directorate
✓ Ms Marcia Malete	DWA Sector Collaboration Directorate
✓ Mr Itumeleng Modiba	DWA Sector Collaboration Directorate (Strategic Support)

###### Apologies:

• Ms Fortunate Makhubu	COGTA
• Ms Portia Makhanya	DWA
• Dr Sizwe Mkhize	DWA
• Mr Helgard Muller	DWA
• Ms Antonino Manus	DWA
• Mr Gerhard Backenberg	WRC
• Mr Adrian Wilson	DWA Sector Collaboration Directorate (Strategic Support)
• Ms Deborah Mochotlhi	DWA

##### 1.3. Adoption of Meeting Objectives and Agenda

The proposed objectives and agenda were approved after a few amendments:

- Item 2.4. sub-item on the Regulatory Framework was removed from the agenda
- Mr Helgard Muller to be represented by Ms S Harigobin
- Dr Mkhize to be represented by Ms Matho Gwala

- Mr Malcolm White requested that the discussion on the national structures be opened to include all the collaboration structures

## **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **1.4. Corrections and Adoption**

No corrections were made – the meeting adopted the minutes as a fair record of proceedings and outcomes of the meeting held on 24 March 2009.

### **1.5. Matters Arising**

All key actions were included as part of meeting's agenda items.

## **2. REFLECTION ON MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE JUNE 2009 WSLG MEETING**

### **2.1. Consolidation of WSLG Strategic Task Teams**

Ms N Duma gave a brief presentation on work done on the consolidation of the STTs into five. She highlighted broad linkages between the WSLG, STTs, MCC and the core groups. She also gave a summary of progress to date and specifically highlighted the following issues for EXCO discussion:

- Some of the STTs have not completed the amalgamation, meaning that the old STTs met as separate teams but that after completion of draft ToR and engagement of the champions, it is expected that the STTs will begin to work from joint platforms. The EXCO should consider how these STTs will be supported to function after amalgamation.
- The Water Security STT has a number of core groups feeding into it, and is not yet functional as a cohesive team. The core groups – HIV/AIDS, NWRS, and Climate Change, seem to be active but the coordinating STT is not yet established (has not yet met). Given the size of the STT a number of issues will have to be looked at, including whether the STT can just play a coordinative role instead of having to sit as an issue-focused STT.
- All the DWA champions have been identified and informed about the status and the need to finalise ToR and establishment processes, however there are a number of STTs that, given the consolidation, have yet to appoint chairpersons.
- The Sanitation STT (NSTT) is very functional; however there is a need to reflect on implications of the mooted migration of the sanitation function to the Department of Human Settlements on the function and role of the structure.

The chairperson summed up the key issues for discussion under the following areas:

- Comments on the revised Terms of Reference of all the structures
- Functionality of the WSLG, EXCO and the STTs

### **Comments on the revised terms of reference and structure of sector collaboration at national level**

#### *a) Overall structure*

- The meeting also noted that the overall structure was not consisted in depicting the linkages between WSLG, MCC and the provincial forums. As a recommendation, the provincial forums should be linked to the MCC given their planning and programme monitoring role. This was accepted.
- Representation of civil society is also captured incorrectly. Firstly, the listed CSOs (in the WSLG Terms of Reference) are not "representative" of civil society in the sector but function either as stand-alone structures, initiatives or short-term projects. It was recommended that given the current gap of an organised network of CSOs in the water sector, SANGOCO should be listed as a representative of organised civil society. It was further mentioned that there are efforts to revive a more representative civil society structure (network of water CSOs) and that in time there will be a more acceptable representation at the WSLG level.
- The size of the WSLG seems to be too large – over sixty delegates; and this may suffocate effective dialogue. It was agreed that whilst it is accepted that a large meeting is generally not

productive, it is important for the EXCO to consider its role in supporting the WSLG and suggest ways of optimising participation and engagement even outside the formal meetings. Participants must be able to see value beyond just information sharing, and other options of information sharing must be explored.

*b) Strategic Task Teams*

- There is a need to revisit the location of the HIV/AIDS mainstreaming core group. Given its focus on people, it may be better linked to Skills Development rather than Water Security. It was however agreed that whilst HIV/AIDS is a people's issue, its mainstreaming covers a lot of issues such as resource availability, appropriateness of systems, etc and skills development is but a component but not the overriding focus. It was agreed that the core group will remain part of the Water Security TT.
- It was further noted that the HIV/AIDS core group is well established whilst the other core groups tackling sustainability pillars (gender, appropriate technology, knowledge management, etc) are not functional. It was agreed that instead of further breaking down the Sustainability Core Group into five smaller teams, all the issues be handled through one Core Group using the HIV/AIDS task team as a building block.
- The Finance and IAM STT should have an additional function of coordinating donor support for the water sector. Currently international development partners deal with different government institutions for donor funding towards water sector related projects, and this will be worthwhile for donors to have this mandate housed within the IAM STT and the WSLG taking overall responsibility of harnessing and directing donor support.
- The Institutional Reform and Regulation STT should have oversight responsibility for a project that is piloting water services franchising. The outcomes have a direct bearing on regulation.
- Mvula Trust would be the most relevant civil society representative on the Skills Development STT.

**Secretariat Action#1: Revise framework and cover comments submitted.**

**Recommendations on improving functionality of the collaboration structures**

- a) The WSLG EXCO must play a proactive role in ensuring that the STTs work effectively and that the WSLG focuses on issues that require sector engagement and not just sharing of information. Acknowledging that there is still value in the WSLG providing a platform for information sharing, the EXCO must guide the WSLG to work towards ensuring that there is real debate on sector challenges.
- b) WSLG effectiveness and focus will be determined by how the STTs function and raise strategic issues for WSLG debate and dialogue. In this regard, the EXCO must work towards improving functionality of the STTs by considering the following:
  - Reducing the information "overload" at WSLG meetings by creating other information sharing avenues such as internet portals to post reports from STTs.

**Secretariat Action#2: Explore additional information sharing mechanisms, especially creating a dedicated website for WSLG.**

- Directing the content and focus of the STTs through agreement on high-level goals for each STT which will be a basis for developing action plans and determining resource requirements to achieve the plan and the goal. The STTs must be able to produce tangible outputs from their meetings and where required direct funding of STT activities must be considered. The agreed high-level objectives should be included in the dashboard template and each STT must report against it.
- Considering that the EXCO cannot meet more frequently, a special work session must be held with the chairpersons/champions to discuss the proposed approach. The

champions/chairpersons must prepare for the session by having prior discussions at STT level and present high-level objectives, proposed action plans and support requirements. This session must take place before the next EXCO meeting in October, preferably after the STT meetings.

**Secretariat Action#3: Organise meeting between EXCO and STT chairs/champs in October before next EXCO meeting.**

- Embedding EXCO members into different STT to actively perform the oversight role (titled Adopt-an-STT) and exploring whether, given the reduced number of STTs, chairpersons should be invited to be part of the EXCO. This deployment is critical for EXCO to ensure that task teams meet, discuss relevant issues, and raise pertinent and strategic issues at WSLG. On this proposal, EXCO members volunteered their oversight responsibility as follows:
  - M Kolisa – Regulation
  - M Mathabathe & M Ginster – Water Security
  - DBSA – Skills Development
  - COGTA – Finance & IAM
  - T Napakade (Interim) – Sanitation

**Secretariat Action#4: Develop and share the schedule of STT meetings with EXCO members**

## **2.2. National Electricity Response Team: Sharing Lessons on Effective Collaboration**

Mr N Govender shared the collaboration model developed to address the electricity crisis with EXCO. Some key issues coming out of the presentation were:

- The collaboration model was strengthened by a strong case of preventing an electricity crisis and this may apply to the water sector as there are critical issues affecting water availability
- There is a direct link to a political oversight body – Inter-Ministerial Committee and this is another possible consideration for the water sector given its inter-sectoral nature
- There are clear high-level objectives set and pursued through the work of sub-committees and therefore the focus of the discussions at different levels were directed towards achieving those specific objectives
- There is a dedicated project management unit (equivalent to the EXCO, at least in terms of governance) and that ensured that dedicated and prompt support is always provided.

The meeting noted that effective collaboration requires a lot of energy and time and that after a while fatigue sets in, affecting participation. It was however agreed that the model presented a good opportunity to explore how it can be adapted in relevant collaboration settings. In the immediate, it was felt that it presents a replicable approach that would be relevant for the Water Security STT. Other overarching elements may be considered for application by DWA. It was therefore resolved that Mr Govender will be requested to present the model to the Water Security STT when it sits and also to DWA senior management.

**Secretariat Action#5: Arrange for presentation to be given at Water Security STT and DWA senior management**

## **2.3. Progress Report on Sector Team engaging with COGTA on the Powers and Functions Review Process**

Ms S Harigobin gave a brief report on the powers and functions review process. With specific reference to progress on development of a sector position on the review process, she mentioned that the team has not met and therefore no progress has been made since the last WSLG meeting. Considering the WSLG proposal on developing a joint sector position, EXCO noted that this task will be very difficult to achieve given divergent interests and positions of various stakeholders. Some of the positions will be

difficult to reconcile, and there is also a need to acknowledge that WSLG may have a limited influence on the outcome of the review as the decisions will be mostly politically informed.

It was however agreed that, even with the noted limitations of WSLG, it must still develop mechanisms to follow the debate and maybe focus on proactively assessing potential implications and developing suitable sector responses.

## **2.4. Update and Progress Report on Key Policies**

### **2.4.1. Review of the National Water Resources Strategy**

Ms M Gwala reported that the NWRS Steering Committee has submitted a request for an extension of the timeline for completing the NWRS but this has not been approved yet. Furthermore, work is continuing especially focusing on reconciliation studies and completion of the catchment management strategies for the two water management areas where CMAs have been established.

### **2.4.2. HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming Strategy**

Ms Harigobin reported that a draft of the strategy has been distributed for comments. The core group is facing a challenge on level and approach towards final approval of the strategy, and the question raised is whether the WSLG has the final say and approval of the strategy, that is considering that this is a sector strategy. In response the meeting agreed that the WSLG will formally adopt the strategy and put mechanisms in place to oversee its implementation as a sector strategy.

### **2.4.3. Revision of the Strategic Framework for Water Services**

On the revision of the SFWS, Ms Harigobin reported the revision has been temporarily halted to allow for finalisation of the WfGD Framework and use overarching principles from the framework (WfGD) to guide the revision.

## **3. NEXT WSLG MEETING**

The Secretariat team presented a concept note on the proposed theme, content and design of the November WSLG meeting. The proposal is summarised as follows:

- Design the agenda around a theme of integrated planning and the integral role of water
- Invite the National Planning Commission to set the scene by highlighting proposed government framework and approach on improving integrated planning within government and across sectors
- Invite key government departments such as Human Settlements, Agriculture, Energy and Mining to present their current tools and approaches regarding sectoral planning and how water is factored into these processes

The meeting considered the submission and agreed that the issue of integrated planning is indeed a crucial and necessary focal point and that there is a need to start engaging the NPC early on. It was also noted that new structures are emerging, for instance the National Planning Forum under the ambit of COGTA, and that it is important for the water sector to create space for influencing integrated planning otherwise other departments may end up leading water sector planning without sector involvement. It was then agreed as follows:

- The theme will be on integrated planning and the water sector. A catchy title should be crafted to capture elements of integration and the need to mainstream water across sectoral planning.
- A lot of preparatory work must happen to ensure that those invited to participate in the meeting give focused, informative and stimulating insights to elicit debate and dialogue in the meeting, which should be the essence of the WSLG meetings. The preparatory work must include:
  - Assessing existing links between the DWA and the NPC and how these could be utilised to engage on the proposed WSLG item. Where possible, DWA senior management representative must meet with NPC to discuss the intention and expected outcome of the next WSLG meeting and how the NPC can play a role in enriching and guiding the discussions.

- Setting up bilateral meetings with senior officials in the selected departments and clarifying the structure and content of the presentations. This work should include investigating the role and current configuration of the National Planning Forum.
- All relevant key documents from the departments should be circulated in time before the WSLG meeting to allow for timeous reflection and identification of key issues.

Secretariat Action#6: Investigate and report current links with NPC and set appropriate engagements to prepare for the WSLG presentation

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Secretariat Action#7: Set up bilateral meetings with identified national departments to guide content and focus of their presentations

**4. CLOSURE**

The chairperson thanked all members for participating in the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 13h15.