



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY



WATER SECTOR LEADERSHIP GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The WSLG EXCO is a management committee of the Water Sector Leadership Group that oversees the operations of the WSLG to ensure relevance, efficiency and value of WSLG meetings. The EXCO is composed of senior officials representing key partners in the water sector. It is convened by DWAF, under the stewardship of the Deputy-Director General: Regions. The EXCO meets twice in between WSLG meetings to, amongst others, review actions from WSLG meetings, coordinate work of the strategic task teams and guide preparations for the next meeting.

Minutes of Meeting Held on the 24th March 2009 at the DWAF Offices (661 Waterbron Building - Pretoria)

1. OPENING

1.1. Welcome Remarks

Mr Mthobeli Kolisa chaired the meeting. He opened the meeting at 14h05, welcoming committee members and apologising for the short delay in starting the meeting. Upon the chairperson's request, all delegates introduced themselves.

1.2. Attendance and Apologies

Present

✓ Mr Mthobeli Kolisa	SALGA
✓ Ms Tabita Napakade	DWAF
✓ Ms Thandeka Mbassa	DWAF
✓ Ms Nino Manus	DWAF
✓ Ms Portia Makhanya	DWAF
✓ Mr Reckson Luvhengo	DPLG
✓ Ms Linda Chamberlain	European Commission
✓ Mr Nandha Govender	ESKOM
✓ Mr Martin Ginster	BUSA/SASOL
✓ Mr Eduzie Ifezulike	DBSA
✓ Mr Adrian Wilson	DWAF Support
✓ Mr Itumeleng Modiba	DWAF Support

Apologies:

- Ms Cindy Damons DPLG
- Ms Ndala Duma DWAF
- Mr Nick Lesufi SA Chamber of Mines

1.3. Adoption of Meeting Objectives and Agenda

The proposed objectives and agenda were approved without amendment.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (17 OCTOBER 2008)

2.1. Corrections and Adoption

Corrections:

- a) Attendance list – Apologies from Messrs Govender and Ginster were not recorded

- b) Incorrect title used – DDG: Regions instead of DDG: Regional Coordination

Adoption: The meeting adopted that the minutes fairly reflected proceedings and outcomes of the meeting held on 17 October 2008.

2.2. Matters Arising – Clarification

The following matters arising from the minutes were clarified (for benefit of those that were absent):

- a) The WSLG EXCO meets twice in between WSLG meetings and there are no pre-set dates for the meeting. The secretariat team engages EXCO members to agree on suitable dates – one after WSLG meeting (reflecting on outcomes of WSLG meeting) followed by another before the WSLG (to guide agenda and meeting preparations).
- b) The issue regarding “strengthening local government voice” by adding municipal representation was an opinion based on post-meeting (WSLG) reflections, and is not an official EXCO/WSLG position. Mr Kolisa requested further discussion on this matter before any submission is made to the WSLG.

2.3. Matters Arising – Action Items

Ms Napakade went through the list of actions agreed in the previous meeting. She indicated that most of the actions were covered on the day's agenda. She reported on the following items that were either not completed or not covered on the agenda:

- a) *Submission to the DG on poor participation of key stakeholders* – A memorandum has been written, through the office of the DDG: Regions; however no formal response has been received.
- b) *Submission to DG on endorsement of champions*: A memorandum was also submitted to the DG. No response has been received.

3. CONFIRMATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1. WSLG EXCO

Mr Adrian Wilson mentioned that the distributed version was not the most recent update. He requested that the latest version be distributed to all members. He however mentioned that all amendments proposed in the previous meeting have been made. Further proposals for amendments were made:

- Inclusion of DBSA in the membership list

Considering that the version on the table was not the most recent, the meeting decided to defer endorsement of the ToR to the next meeting. It was also clarified that the EXCO will agree to the ToR, but as a matter of principle, the WSLG must approve the EXCO ToR – the revision was prompted by a WSLG resolution in the first place.

3.2. Generic ToR for STTs

Mr Wilson presented the generic ToR for STTs. It emerged that some comments from the members, in response to the initial circulation, were not addressed. Mr Govender mentioned specific items related to functioning of the secretariat and championing. Further discussion continued about the concept of a champion. It was however agreed that the current phrasing in the ToR addresses all concerns raised and that there is no need for any amendment.

3.3. Specific ToR for STTs

Draft Terms of Reference have been developed for each of the proposed STTs. The adoption of these ToR is at different levels per STT.

Ms Mbassa raised a concern that although the STTs address pertinent issues in the water sector, their existence has not yet assisted to enhance current DWAF's programmes.

In her submission, she proposed that the EXCO must assist to build a strong linkage between current DWAF programmes and STT work, by making proposals on how this conceptual relationship could be strengthened to benefit the acceleration of DWAF programmes, e.g. review of the NWRS. A number of proposals were made, including:

- Creating structured coordination platforms involving all the chairpersons/champions. This would ensure that inter-linkages are addressed and that outputs of the various STTs are linked to existing programmes. It was further proposed that the EXCO chairperson should convene such meetings, but not involve other EXCO members in the meetings.
- Incorporating the “conceptual” link between internal DWAF programmes and sector discussions in the STT terms of reference. Each STT should be cognisant of existing programmes, and develop specific mechanisms of interacting with these programmes (e.g. making specific inputs, participating in consultation processes, guiding “sector” inputs).
- Ensuring that senior officials within DWAF lead the STTs. It is hoped that with a “global view”, a senior manager would link the discussions of the STTs and the programme activities undertaken by DWAF.
- Formalise the relationships between DWAF programmes and the STTs by compelling DWAF programme managers to take key programmes, strategies and policies through WSLG structures for “sector endorsement” before finalisation. WSLG STTs and the WSLG should be used as “formal sector consultative platforms” for all key policies, programmes and initiatives.

Mr Ginster cautioned that WSLG should not be elevated to an “approval” structure. It should always be seen as platform for sector dialogue, interface and communication and not where major policy decisions are taken.

Mr E Ifezulike observed that there is a widespread challenge of poor sector collaboration in the water sector, especially in terms of contributions of other sector stakeholders. He proposed that the sector must look beyond just realigning collaborative structures but search for deep seated problems that affect sector collaboration. In response, Ms Mbassa mentioned that collaboration and coordination is a challenge in all government sectors and that the water sector is doing relatively well. She stressed the need to institutionalise sector collaboration as an effective mechanism of promoting stakeholder participation – clarity of purpose, focus and leadership is critical.

4. ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Mr I Modiba presented the findings of the assessment as per resolution of the previous EXCO meeting. A detailed report was distributed with the minutes. The findings listed the structures that are still active, that would have to be repositioned in accordance with the new WSLG collaborative framework. After consideration of the report and the recommendations, the EXCO resolved thus:

- The Masibambane Coordinating Committee (MCC) should focus on coordinating sector programmes and report strategic issues that require a higher-level sector dialogue, reflection and resolution to the WSLG
- The Water Sector Budget and Expenditure Committee should be retained as a feeder committee of the MCC’s quarterly reports (financial performance and audits) but should also report strategic financial issues to the STT on Sector Financing
- The WIN-SA Strategic Advisory Committee should primarily focus on oversight responsibilities towards the WIN-SA programme (business plan, programmes, etc). Key knowledge management issues emanating from the programmes should be reported to the WSLG through the Water for Growth and Development STT.

- The “old WSSLG” core groups on HIV/AIDS and Gender should be incorporated into the WfGD STT as feeder groups.

5. CONSOLIDATED STT PROGRESS REPORTS

Mr A Wilson presented a consolidated progress report from various STTs. The overall picture shows progress in the establishment of the STTs; however most progress is in areas where collaborative structures existed before – IAM, Sanitation, and Regulation. The “hot spots” areas identified include skills development, WCDM, and NWRS.

- *Skills development (there is still no champion driving the establishment of the structure)* – it was resolved that this matter must be raised as a concern in the next WSLG meeting especially noting that this is an important area for government as a whole. It was reported that a new Director: Water Sector Support will take over this role, however an interim arrangement has to be made. Where possible an external champion must be sought.
- *Water Conservation and Demand Management* – although there is some progress, it is important to ensure that the STT begins to work soon, given the high priority placed on WCDM.
- *NWRS (Delays in starting the review process affecting sector input)* – The meeting agreed that, from a legislative point of view, the NWRS is a cornerstone of water sector programmes as it determines availability and provides scenarios for various WMAs. It was resolved that EXCO must impress upon DWAF that approval of the WfGD framework should create space for initiation of the NWRS review, especially on actions related to collecting baseline data. The Department must also be advised to ensure that stakeholder consultation begins early, to ensure full ownership of the NWRS by the sector.

It was also resolved that:

- The NSTT should be guided to develop a work plan that address sanitation holistically (Rethinking Sanitation Paradigm), and that a presentation of the work plan should be done at the next EXCO.
- Institutional Review and Reform processes must be integrated fully into the STT discussions. The relevant STT champion must present the reconceptualised focus of the STT to the EXCO.

6. NEXT WSLG MEETING

The discussion was deferred to the next meeting after considering a previous resolution of the EXCO which specifically requires the secretariat to take a draft WSLG agenda through DWAF senior management first before it is presented to the EXCO.

7. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TASK TEAM

Ms N Manus gave a presentation on current DWAF initiatives (collaborative) on appropriate technology. She mentioned that a task team has been established (although it does not fully function as a task team) by DWAF and the Department of Science and Technology to look at appropriate technology to accelerate water services delivery. A number of pilot projects and studies are being undertaken to address issues such as safe drinking water for people who used streams, and communities who need basic sanitation.

DWAF is also developing a strategy on appropriate technology to essentially guide municipalities and the sector on decision-making tools. This strategy, developed through the CSIR, will deal with strategic elements of appropriate technology, whilst the DST-DWAF task team is focusing on pilots and research.

The meeting considered this development and proposed the following:

- There is no need for a new WSLG STT on appropriate technology; however there is a need to ensure that appropriate technology issues are not lost. In the immediate term, appropriate technology should be incorporated into existing WSLG task teams. This will include broad perspectives addressed at the WfGD STT and specific considerations by the NSTT (sanitation), WCDM and Asset Management.
- These STTs should be guided to report on appropriate technology measures. The reporting template must highlight these areas. It was further recommended that all STTs should clearly respond to specific questions on key strategic issues emanating from their meetings and how they plan to address those. This will ensure more focused and relevant reporting.
- A DWAF champion must actively drive and respond to appropriate technology queries from sector partners

8. CLOSURE

The chairperson thanked all members for participating in the meeting – indicating that discussions were quite fruitful. He also expressed appreciation that members endured the extended meeting duration. The meeting was adjourned.