



## **Water Research Commission Strategy Refresh Meeting**

**March 2, 2015, 11:00 – 13:30**

**Water Research Commission, Pretoria South Africa**

### **Opening remarks**

The meeting began with opening remarks from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The department noted the value of its partnership with the SWPN. It is working to ensure that water remains a priority, both nationally and internationally.

The following areas of collaboration for the SWPN and the DWS were suggested:

- Increase community involvement.
- Provide skills development and training for maintenance of dams, installing distribution systems, and ensuring reticulation.
- Consider incentives to encourage companies to do the right thing.
- Work on governance issues and influence policy to create an environment in which everyone can operate.
- Consider including sanitation as a focus area.
- Develop a broader communications strategy on water issues.

### **SWPN progress to date**

Each working group provided a progress report on its projects. The following overall comments were made:

- It must be assessed whether the working groups have made sufficient progress, and whether implementation could be faster to allow for earlier dissemination and replication.
- All three working groups should include issues of compliance in their agenda. Specifically, whether the private sector is making best use of available approaches to water management.
- Targets should be identified for working groups, such as mobilizing finance needed for the sustainability of the Water Administration System.
- A substantial amount of work is often not mainstreamed.
- A consolidation exercise should be conducted now that the DWS has re-conceptualized its own strategic plan. This has created additional areas where the partnership could play a more meaningful role.
- It was proposed that projects should consider social and other impacts. The extent of social transformation must be determined.
- The extent to which the SWPN wishes to engage in policy and regulatory engagements must be considered. Expectations need to be recorded to avoid misunderstanding.

## **2013 strategy review**

Three task teams were established to discuss specific areas for potential SWPN involvement.

### *Sanitation*

The SWPN's support for sanitation could focus on implementing WASH principles, demonstrating new technologies, closing the knowing-doing gap, and supporting sanitation in urban areas. The opportunities for social franchising and business development in sanitation will be considered for SWPN interventions in sanitation.

The task team:

- Jay Bhagwan, convener (Water Research Commission)
- Christine Colvin (WWF)
- Martin Ginster (Sasol)
- William Moraka (SALGA)
- Rivash Panday (Sasol).

The task team could be a sub-group of the Effluent and Waste Water Management Working Group. It will prepare a recommendation for the SWPN Steering Committee.

### **Skills and capacity building**

The SWPN's support for capacity building should be a cross-cutting intervention with actions and key performance indicators for each working group. Interventions should build on existing expertise and work by academia, the Water Research Commission, Rand Water, and others; disseminate private sector training innovations; and collaborate with centers of expertise in municipalities. Capacity building should be an instrument for transformation.

The task team:

- Lynette Chen, convener (NEPAD Business Forum)
- Nicole Kranz (GIZ)
- Paul Herbst (DWS)
- Nandha Govender (Eskom)
- Rivash Panday (Sasol).

The task team will explore the ideas and present a report to the Steering Committee.

### **Water stewardship, governance, incentives, and policy and regulatory support**

The SWPN's water stewardship, governance, incentives, and policy and regulatory support could assess the opportunity for SWPN members to apply existing water stewardship standards within their organizations, as well as supporting catchment-level interventions. The SWPN's expansion into policy would probably be limited in scope and mainly take place as a secondary effect of projects. SWPN proposals regarding incentives should be carefully considered and realistic.

The task team:

- Mongezi Vetji, convener (Exxaro)
- Muzi Chonco (SABMiller)
- Sanjeev Raghbir (Nestlé)

- Nicole Kranz (GIZ)
- Valerie Naidoo (Water Research Commission)

The task team will explore the ideas and report to the Steering Committee.

### **SWPN communication and member engagement approach**

The SWPN had previously made a strategic decision not to communicate while work was under way. Now that progress has been made and case studies have been initiated, members agreed that a communication plan needs to be developed.

The following suggestions were made:

- Use World Water Day and National Water Week as platforms to launch the communication strategy.
- Establish a group to consider the 2030 Water Resources Group's (WRG's) submission regarding identifying various audiences and the messages to be communicated to each target audience.
- Release a press statement about the new DWS Director-General, the SWPN, and the performance-based contract SALGA is introducing.
- Ask corporates to make their marketing and communications strategies available to assist with developing a high-level strategy.
- Develop a short and long-term communication plan. The secretariat will develop an action plan and strategy for the members' consideration.

The Deputy Director-General of Communication in the DWS will engage with Muzi Chonco from the SWPN on developing a broader communications strategy on water issues.

### **Conclusion and way forward**

The facilitator thanked the participants for their attendance and input. It was agreed that the secretariat would prepare a membership framework.

**Appendix 1: Participant list**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Andre Kruger	Absa
Ritva Muhlbauer	Anglo American
Margaret-Ann Diedricks	DWS
Tabisa Fiko	DWS
Jannie Fourie	DWS
Paul Herbst	DWS
Moses Mohwemva	DWS
Takalani Murulana	DWS
Phumza Ntsaluba Sivuyise	DWS
Moloko Raletjena	DWS
Nandha Govender	Eskom
Mongezi Vetu	Exxaro
Nicole Kranz	GIZ
Mike Muller	National Planning Commission
Geoff Rothschild	NEPAD Business Foundation/JSE
Lynette Chen	NEPAD Business Foundation
Sanjeev Raghbir	Nestle
Andre Fourie	SABMiller
Muzi Chonco	SABMiller
William Moraka	SALGA
Martin Ginster	SASOL
Rivash Panday	SASOL
Julia du Pisani	SWPN
Michelle Proude	SWPN
Jay Bhagwan	Water Research Commission
Dhesigen Naidoo	Water Research Commission
Christine Colvin	WWF
Will Davies	2030 WRG