

Eastern Cape GWD Talk and Get-Together



23 April 2015

The year has reached cruising altitude and it was about time that the Eastern Cape GWD members got together to see if everybody survived the take-off!

The Eastern Cape Groundwater division consist of a total of 35 members, a small start that can bring about big change. We decided on an informal get-together where we could get to know each other a little better, share experiences and challenge our knowledge around groundwater in the Eastern Cape Province. Members of the local SAICE branch were also invited and we were glad to see a couple of engineers attending and participating.

We were fortunate to host the talk at the Science and Technology Park at the East London Industrial Development Zone, a local proactive driver of the green economy. They have a thoroughly green-infused approach to all zone operations, including waste and water management and sustainable energy consumption; it couldn't be a more fitting venue.

After snacks, new introductions and rekindling of old acquaintances, we got together in the conference room where Mr. Myburgh, current Chairman of the ECGWD, gave a quick update on ECGWD's finances, membership status and planning for the year. It was decided that the next get-together will comprise a formal ECGWD meeting to confirm management members and year planning. Mr Myburgh also handed out material advertising the coming Groundwater Conference and showed a sample of the conference bags that will be used and the initiatives around its manufacturing. Everybody was motivated to attend and also to make use of sponsorship opportunities at the conference.





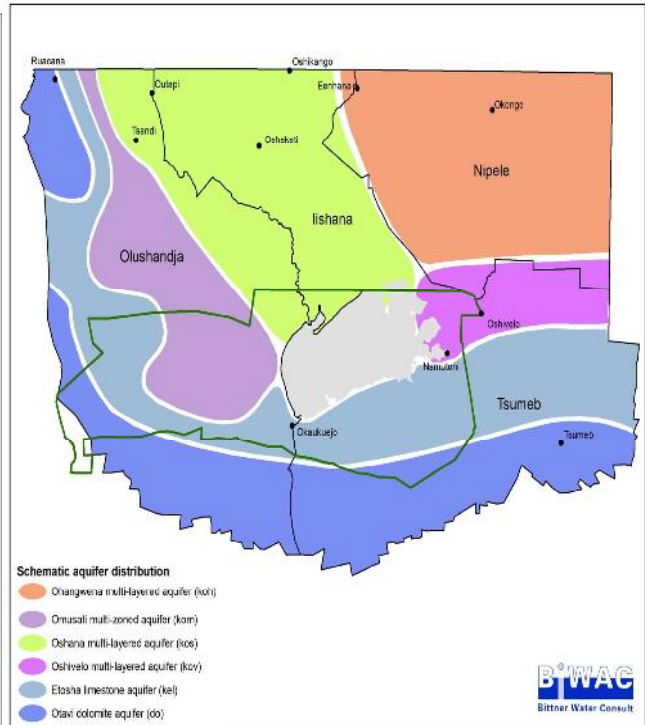
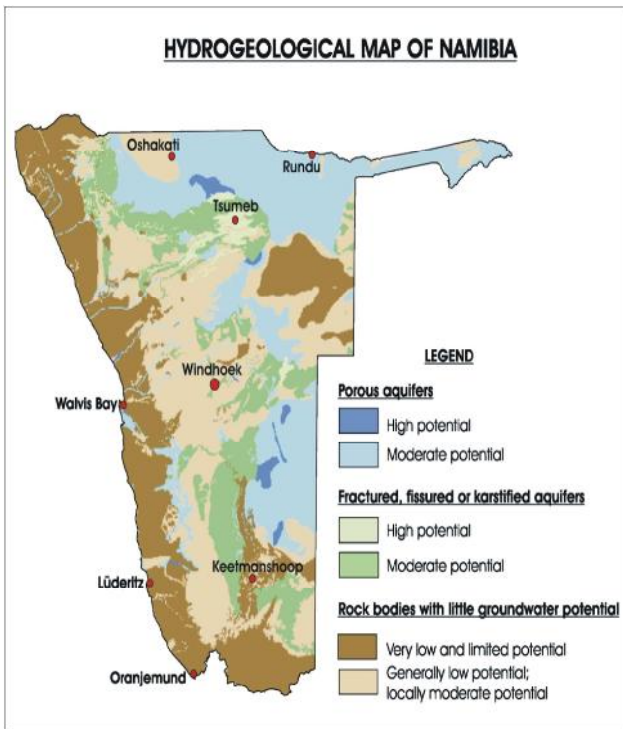
As there are no longer membership fees being charged, members were invited to make donations to be able to pay for the venue and snacks. The following individuals and companies contributed:

- AB PUMPS
- SRK
- REDE
- AGES
- Etienne Mouton
- Moshima Masoga

Mr Myburgh then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Eric Tordiffe, a stalwart in South-African and Namibian groundwater circles with over 40 years' experience in the field. Dr. Eric Tordiffe has recently retired and now stays in Kaysers Beach.

Dr. Eric Tordiffe presented an informative presentation on the characteristics and management of aquifers in the Tsumeb Sub-Basin, Namibia. The points he covered were applicable to all members as it covered the whole spectrum of groundwater exploration, development and management.

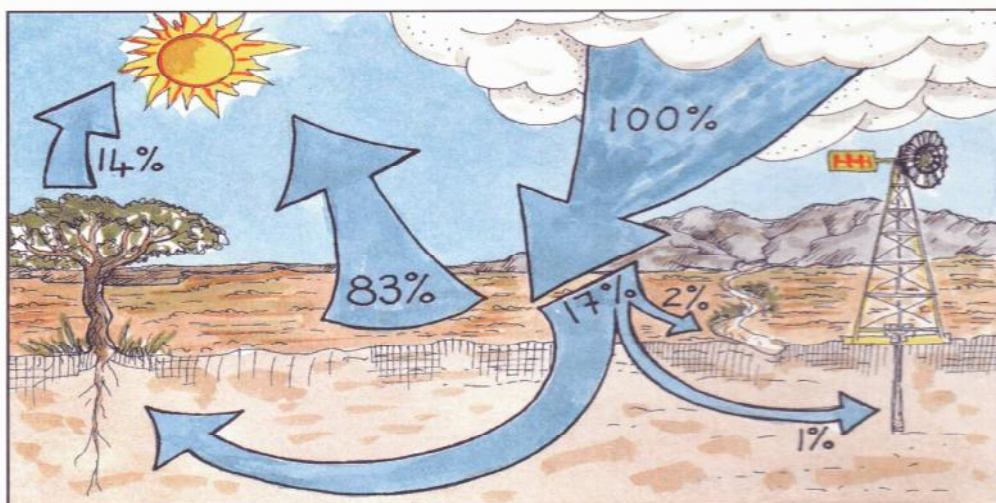




Dr. E. Tordiffe discussed the following important points linked to Namibian aquifers:

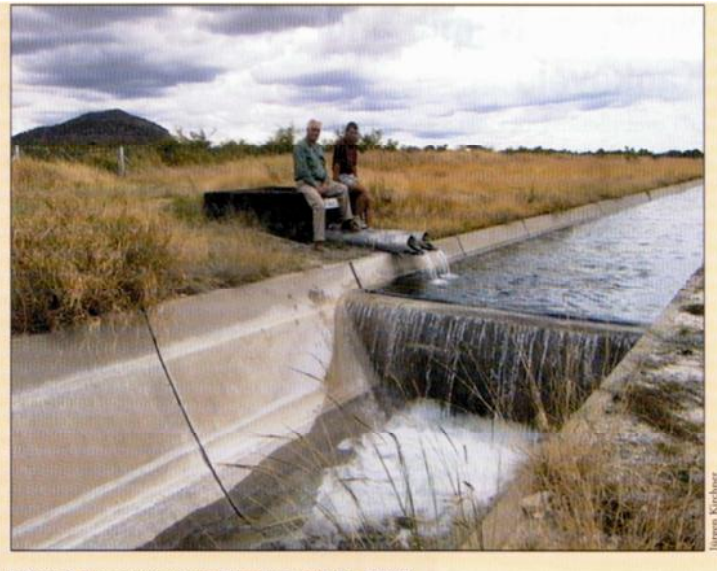
- ✚ IMPORTANCE OF THE GROUNDWATER RESOURCES OF THE BASIN
- ✚ THE HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE IN NAMIBIA
- ✚ GENERAL GEOLOGY OF THE BASIN
- ✚ AQUIFERS OF THE BASIN & HYDROGEOLOGICAL SETTING
- ✚ GROUNDWATER TRANSFER TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY
- ✚ GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING & RAINFALL
- ✚ STORED VOLUMES OF GROUNDWATER
- ✚ GROUNDWATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

He focussed on the importance of groundwater, reminding members that groundwater is the MAIN water resource in Namibia.



High evapotranspiration percentages and low groundwater recharge volumes were pointed out.

It was amazing to hear how far valuable ground and surface water is being transported in Namibia to other parts of the country. Pipelines and canals stretching up to 500 kilometres in length are in place and being planned.



We looked at groundwater resource management and how a resource can only be managed sustainably when:

- ✚ THE VOLUME OF ABSTRACTABLE WATER IS KNOWN
- ✚ THE RECHARGE TO THE AQUIFERS IS KNOWN
- ✚ WATER CONSUMPTION BY DIFFERENT CONSUMERS IS MONITORED
- ✚ THE WATER QUALITY IS SUITABLE FOR THE DIFFERENT USERS
- ✚ GROUNDWATER LEVELS & QUALITY ARE MONITORED REGULARLY
- ✚ SUFFICIENT MONITORING STATIONS ARE PROPERLY DISTRIBUTED TO REPRESENT THE ENTIRE RESOURCE
- ✚ REPRESENTATIVE RAINFALL DATA ARE COLLECTED AND EVALUATED

The presentation was highly informative, and all of us found a way to relate to the topic in each of our unique roles we play within our own personal profession.

Dr. E. Tordiffe's presentation really got us thinking and discussions started flowing on how we can implement basin management to contribute to groundwater awareness nationally, with the following conclusion:

- ✚ WE NEED TO BE ACTIVE IN APROPRIATION OF GROUNDWATER
- ✚ ASSIST IN THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE RESOURCES
- ✚ BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE GROUNDWATER MONITORING
- ✚ SHARE INFORMATION ON GROUNDWATER AWARENESS
- ✚ GATHER RAINFALL DATA
- ✚ ASSIST WITH PROTECTION OF MONITORING INSTALLATIONS

We look forward to our next get-together, a platform where we can inform and inspire existing members as well as attract new potential Groundwater division members to jump aboard our Eastern Cape team.

