



AMPS Cape Town Conference 2023

29 August 23

Notes from AMPS conference 23rd September 2023

1. Paolo Lupini (PL) **welcomed all members** and specifically COCT, Dept of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and members of the engineering faculty of CPUT.
2. Apologies had been received from A Beyers (AA), S Green (Chembros), I Mathye (DWS); M Meyer(Econoloo); G Bolt (AMPS+Sanitation for Africa)
3. All **attendees introduced themselves** – attendance register attached.
4. **Mr Zweli Ndlovu (ZN) was introduced** to the Conference by PL as the new AMPS board **Chairman**.
5. Held a minutes silence as a memorial for the recent passing of John Banks - board member.
6. PL gave a brief presentation of the **AMPS Guidelines and Operating Procedures**.
 - i. PL highlighted that these documents have been in preparation for a few years with input from most the AMPS board, major operators and suppliers in the industry.
 - ii. These documents are now to be issued in September 2023 as a first edition. Future comments/alterations/amendments can be added annually if necessary.
 - iii. PL highlighted that these documents have been specifically targeted at the Portable Plastic Toilet industry however does not cover the other elements of the industry such as cassette, VIP, pit toilets at this stage. It is anticipated that these other elements will be added to the documents in future once sufficient review is completed.
 - iv. PL advised these documents are freely available from AMPS for review and feedback.
 - v. It is anticipated that DWS will include these documents in the upcoming faecal sludge management strategy.
7. Mr Mchumane Hlazo presented the Department of Water and Sanitation strategy. This presentation can be viewed on the AMPS website. Some highlights of the presentation:
 - i. Requirements for women and girls sanitation requirements.
 - ii. Wash hand basis are critical in sanitation solutions.
 - iii. Spillage during transport to be focussed upon.
 - iv. Flappers on portable toilets to hide waste.
 - v. The involvement of CPUT in the DWS task team and strategy development – Prof. V Fester.
8. PL presented Johns Pond – biological faecal sludge management system. This can be viewed on the AMPS website.
 - i. A question relating to scalability of the pond was asked – the pond can be built at any scale.

- ii. The accessing of funding for these ponds could be sourced at municipal level, DTI and other options.
9. Peter from Absolute Ablutions(AA) presented their large toilet, fresh water and vacuum presentation.
- i. There are plug and play options available for the AA units.
 - ii. Accessibility for informal settlement for the large 6 pot units was raised, these could be delivered modular and built in-situ at a price.
 - iii. Also servicing of off-line systems in informal sector without road access was highlighted – review wheelbarrow supplied vacuum systems.
 - iv. Locking of mobile trailers was raised due to theft – AA to research solutions as current solutions are not working.
10. General discussion and feedback:
- i. **Travel distance** for outlying areas was raised and DWS advised that with all stakeholders, the Faecal Sludge management strategy must be used to resolve these issues with solutions such as Johns Pond. **Public/Private partnerships** to be established.
 - ii. **Bucket toilet** systems:
 - a. How will be replaced?
 - b. The definition of bucket toilets varies from province to province.
 - c. Utilise container toilets?
 - d. In-home systems such as Loowat?
 - iii. It was highlighted that COCT still utilise **rates for portable toilets that are several years old** while costs for operation have increased in that period!
 - iv. The issue of **vandalism and theft** of PT's was raised –
 - a. involve local communities.
 - b. Place PT's on private land with owners consent where possible
 - c. Education of communities crucial!**
 - v. **Extortion** by gangs and others was raised – the extortion contact number to be shared.
 - vi. The issue of **scrap yards buying PT parts** was raised and the question of establishing a moratorium on PT part resales like the copper ban was raised.
 - vii. **DWS additional comments:**
 - a. DWS need AMPS, operators and members input.
 - b. Innovation must be sought and shared.
 - c. Research must be focussed.
 - d. **AMPS to issue DWS/COCT a letter** relating to issues raised in this forum - **AMPS**
 - viii. **CPUT feedback** – Prof V Fester:
 - a. Context of informal sectors is crucial; they are all different.
 - b. The focus of **Faecal Sludge converting to Electricity** is a primary focus for our industry.
 - c. CPUT queried approximate volumes of faecal sludge for Cape Town greater area – approx. 8 million. Liters per month excluding pits, VIPs etc. was advised. At Borchards quarry.
 - d. CPUT advised that they would appreciate relevant **issues requiring research** in the AMPS sector for the students of all levels in their water and sanitation department. **AMPS**
 - e. CPUT offered to **establish a training philosophy and certification** process for PT operators. **AMPS/CPUT**

- ix. Loowat advised their waterless flushing product overview.
- x. Pioneer requested whether they could engage directly with CPUT – agreed.
- xi. The issue of municipalities having different requirements to water department was raised – Gauteng Rand Water.
- xii. **Load Shedding** has resulted in many hours of **wasted time at WWTP's** and in several cases operators dump illegally to reduce time loss.
- xiii. The latest **COCT contact details** were shared:
Pierre Maritz – Acting Director – Pierre.Maritz@Capetown.gov.za
Ettienne Hugo – Acting Executive Director – Etienne.Hugo@Capetown.gov.za
Mogamat Armeen Mallick – Branch Manager ISBS –
Mogamat.Mallick@Capetown.gov.za

ZN and PL thanked all parties for attending and declared the meeting closed.

CC. All attendees and apologies.