

## **Community Roadshow – Introducing River Health Monitoring Tools to Hennops River**

### **Revival Community: A Madiba Month Gesture**

**Date: 29 July 2021**

**Time: 10h00 – 12h00**

South Africa is a dry country, therefore cannot afford to waste a drop of water. Every drop counts. However, the current water quality pollution status shows that most water resources are degraded, starting from mountain streams, wetlands through to rivers, estuaries, and ground water. More than 65% of our rivers are threatened by pollution of one kind or another (NBA, 2019). Projections based on many WRC funded projects paint an even gloomier picture and calls for serious investments towards fixing point and managing non-point sources of pollution. It is a massive effort which if delayed further, will cost even more to rehabilitate and get back to the services these aquatic ecosystems should provide and to which all humanity and economy depend on. Hosting this webinar in July as we celebrate Mandela Day is of paramount significance to communities. This will form part of activities to empower communities and help them recognise their actions towards positive change, raise awareness and expand Mandela's values. Based on this, a webinar and practical training session has been planned to share the existing WRC Citizen Science tools and train communities on the use and their implementation in monitoring river health.

Given the above, the WRC Hennops Revival (Non-Profit Organisation) NPO and the City of Tshwane Municipality have agreed to partner in empowering the communities residing along the Hennops River in monitoring the health of the system. Due to the human settlements alongside the Hennops River, it has become a liability and concern in several suburbs located south of Pretoria and, more importantly, has become less suitable for sustaining aquatic ecosystems in some of its sections (Ryan, 2006). The highly polluted Hennops River has an effect not only on the environment itself, but also in terms of social and economic aspects. Hennops Revival community is keen on clearing this river, monitor its water quality, however they lack biological monitoring skills, such as the use of MiniSASS, Clarity Tube and other citizen science tools. Currently, the NPO and the communities rely on pathogen monitoring which is expensive and not sustainable due to the large dependence on ad hoc sponsorship.

### **Aim of the webinar**

The aim of the webinar is to introduce and expand the network of empowered citizen scientists in the country who are willing and able to collect quality data which is fast becoming the greatest threat to monitoring and management of water resources in South Africa. The idea is to assist Hennops Revival to monitor and report on the state of Hennops River on a continuous basis. The information is critical in holding authorities accountable.

## Who should attend?

All stakeholders within the water sector, particularly those leading or participating in the citizen science or voluntary water resources monitoring. The participants will learn how to lead and monitoring river health in urban and rural communities. Community groups, Non-governmental Organisations (NGO's) Water Boards, Schools, Researchers, Academics, Councils, Biodiversity Institutes, Local and National Government, Business, Civil Society Representatives and Entrepreneurs are all invited to attend. Green thinking youth as game changers and disrupters are also encouraged to participate.

## Draft Programme

**Programme Director:** Mr Bonani Madikizela, WRC

10:00 - 10:15	Welcome and introduction	Programme Director
10:15 - 10:30	Research vision on the citizen scientists monitoring role.	Dr Shafick Adams, Executive Manager (WRC)
10:30- 10:45	Presentation by the City of Tshwane Municipality	Mr Sibusiso Mabase and Lutske Newton, City of Tshwane Municipality, Water and Sanitation
10:45-11:45	Pollution of the Hennops River and Community clean up campaign	Ms Tarryn Johnson, Director and founder of the Hennops Revival Community
10:45-11:45	Presentation and demonstration of the Citizens science monitoring toolbox.	Ms Kholosa Magudu, GroundTruth
11:45-11:00	Question/Answer session	All
12:00-12:00	Closing Remarks and Way Forward	Mr Bonani Madikizela, Research Manager, WRC