

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND REGIONAL LEARNING ALLIANCE PLATFORM (R-LAP) MEETING HELD  
AT THE VRCWSA CONFERENCE ROOM, HO ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2016**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Name of Project:** Strengthening Local Government Capacity to Deliver Water Services  
**R-LAP Meeting Number:** 2  
**Date of meeting:** Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016  
**Place of Meeting:** CWSA Conference-room, Ho

**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING**

Ref	Time	Items	Responsibility
1	09.00 – 10.00	Arrival	Participants
2	10,00 – 10.05	Opening Prayer	Volunteer
3	10.05 – 10.15	Self-Introduction	Participants
4	10.15 – 10. 25	Opening Remarks	RD CWSA- VR
5	11.25 – 1.00	Presentation on Market Based Approach in Rural Water delivery	Safe Water Network
6	100- 1.45	General discussions	Facilitator/ Participants
7	1.45 – 2.00	Closing Remarks	RD CWSA- VR
8	2.00 -2.00	Closing Prayers/ Group Photograph	Volunteer
9	2.00-2.30	Lunch / Departure	RD CWSA- VR
10	2.30-3.00	Core Group meeting	RD CWSA- VR

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Ref	Activity/Discussions	Responsibility	Time
1	<p><b>Call To Order;</b> The meeting was called to order at exactly 10.38 a.m. by Ing. Kofi Mensah Sebuabe, Chief Water and Sanitation Engineer, Volta Region Community Water and Sanitation Agency, Ho. He was also nominated and unanimously accepted to chair the meeting in the absence of the Regional Director of CWSA Volta.</p>	Kofi Mensah Sebuabe	
2	<p><b>Opening Prayer;</b> Mr. Vincent Appeah-Kubi, a national Service personnel with the Account session of CWSA-Volta, gave a short prayer to start the meeting</p>	Vincent Appeah-Kubi	
3	<p><b>Self-introduction</b> Participants took turns to introduce themselves to the House since this is the first time most of them are coming on the platform.</p>	All	
4	<p><b>Opening Remarks / Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In his welcome statement Ing.. Kofi Mensah Sebuabe thanked first-timers for their response. He expressed his special appreciation to people who were at the first platform meeting and have responded to the second one too.</li> <li>b) He later informed the house that the Regional Director of CWSA –Volta, who is the substantive Chairman of the R-LAP was out of town for an equally important assignment so he was standing in for the Regional Director. He was spontaneously accepted to chair the meeting in the absence of the Regional Director of CWSA Volta.</li> <li>c) The Chairman in his welcome remarks expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful response received by the call to come on the platform.</li> </ul>	Kofi Mensah Sebuabe	
5	<p><b>Purpose of the Meeting,</b> The Chairman informed the first-timers that the platform is an opportunity for the myriad of all rural water sub sector beneficiaries, players, collaborators and stakeholders to formally meet, table, discuss, exchange ideas, get information on success stories, and innovations pertaining to WASH and WASH related issues confronting the Region, and proceed to systematically document the findings and lessons learnt. He went on to explain that the documentations of <i>what is working</i> and <i>what is not working</i> well, will in turn equip platform members with the necessary and requisite information and form the basis for replicating and up-scaling success stories. It will also help members to design or adopt new strategies for finding solutions for practices which have been identified as posing bottlenecks or total barriers to sustainable rural WASH delivery to all communities in the region. The Chairman then informed the house that the main item on the Agenda for the days meeting is a presentation from Safe Water Network on the Market Base Model of water delivery they are practicing in rural communities in the region.</p>	Chairman	

6	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The minute of the previous meeting was duly taken through all the standard minutes processing formalities, declared as a true reflection of all what transpired at the last meeting and accepted for discussion.</p>	Secretary	
6	<p><b>The Main Presentation of the day :</b>  <b><i>The Market Base Model Approach in Rural Water Delivery</i></b>  <u>Documentary Video Show</u></p> <p>The presentation was started with a short but very interesting informational documentary video on SWN operations, activities and key principles. The video took the house through the different aspects of the work of the Network.</p> <p><u>Business Point of View</u></p> <p>During the discursive processing of the video, it came out clearly that the key moving principle of the SWN operations is that though water is considered as a social commodity, the processes involved in providing modern-day sustainable, potable water delivery can only be tackled from a <b>serious business point of view</b>. Hence the market model.</p> <p><u>History of the Market Base Model (MBM)</u></p> <p>The presentation continued with the history of the model. The idea of the Market base model was mooted in 2006. It was introduced to Ghana in 2009.</p> <p>Unlike the conventional NGO approach to safe water delivery to rural communities, the Market Base Model was developed, tested, evaluated, and subsequently recommended for replication and up-scaling in Ghana. So far there are 37 stations in operation nationwide. Five (5) of these are in the Volta Region</p> <p><u>Characteristics of the Market Base Model (MBM)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No compulsion on community to manage O&amp;M</li> <li>2. The MBM is station Specific</li> <li>3. Each Station has trained operators</li> <li>4. Operators are put on regular pay-role of the station</li> <li>5. There is daily water quality analysis check</li> <li>6. Failure rate is very rare</li> <li>7. Systems are not very big so are not expensive to operate</li> <li>8. Unlike Point source systems, SWN systems don't break down too frequently</li> <li>9. Maintenance is inextricably woven into the operation of the MBM</li> <li>10. Stringent record keeping regime on all parameters/activities</li> <li>11. Consumer defaulting rate is very low</li> <li>12. House hold connections are main source of revenue</li> <li>13. Each MBM Station belongs to a Cluster of about 8 Stations</li> <li>14. A cluster is about 8 station under one Manager. Each cluster Manager has 4 supervisors under him.</li> <li>15. There is a dedicated Field Service Entity playing regular and systematic monitoring and supervision roles over Station Clusters</li> <li>16. Each station has enough money at any given time for repair of any breakdown</li> </ol>	Kwame Asumadu (Programme Associate, SWN)	

	<p>17. Each MBM station Operates as a business entity</p> <p>18. Each Station has its own unique treatment system ( SSF, UV, borehole etc)</p> <p>19. Each station contributes to a Central Maintenance Reserve Fund (Pool Fund)</p> <p>20. Each station has operational account for day to day management</p> <p>21. Each station pays for its consumables and staff</p> <p>22. Each station pays a capital cost recovery fund</p> <p>23. There is a Central Maintenance Reserve Fund</p> <p>24. Community Contributes the land/SWN sinks its own borehole</p> <p>25. Communities are paid dividends</p> <p>26. SWN staff is not paid from the tariff from the stations</p> <p>27. There is a Water Enterprise Trust which manages the Central Maintenance Reserve Fund</p> <p>28. Payment to the reserve fund is based on Maintenance Calculation</p> <p>29. The maintenance calculation is based on the design and age of the major inputs like pumps, pipelines, tanks etc</p>		
	<p><b>The way Forward</b></p> <p>Due to high cost of electricity, Safe water Network has decided to experiment with solar energy. The initial outlay is very high but it is believed it will be far cheaper in the long term. Piloting is on-going in Ananekrom in the Ashanti Region</p>		
	<p><b>Discussions</b></p> <p>The presentation was followed by a lively discussion session which was full of friendly give and take. At the end of it all the house agreed that it is a worthy innovation which is worth studying. With a little bit of refinement, this model might prove to be the panacea for the elusive sustainability we have been looking for all these years</p>	All	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Any other Relevant Business</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Funding :</b></p> <p>A member wanted to know where funding for the next meeting will be coming from since it is a common knowledge that Conrad Hilton Foundation in collaboration IRC and CWSA will provide funding for only the first two Regional Level learning Alliance Platforms</p> <p>It was suggested that the Core Group should consider and adopt very innovative ways of raising funds for running the Platform meetings. There were appeals to platform Members to consider giving token contributions towards the next meeting.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date for the Next Meeting</b></li> </ul> <p>The date of the next meeting was left to the Core Group to decide on and inform Platform members accordingly.</p>	Core Group	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lunch &amp; Closing Prayer</b></li> </ul> <p>The closing Prayer was said by Elorm Kpotosu, the Deputy Director of CHAUFRA Company Limited, one of the leading Partner Organizations in the Volta Region at 2.35 pm.</p>		