



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: 26 February 2016, Start Time: 10:30am

Location: Indigo Shire Council

Address: 2 Kurrajong Way, Beechworth 3747

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	AlburyCity Council – Chairman Region 1
Mr Brad Ferris	AlburyCity Council
Bruce Andrews	Urana Shire
Cr Fiona Schirmer	Corowa Shire
Mr Geoff Lucas	Beechworth
Cr George Martin	Tumbarumba Shire
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire
Mr Ray Stubbs	Chief Executive Officer RAMROC
Mary Fraser	Towong Shire
Cr Emmerick Teissl	Indigo Shire Council
Cr Jenny O'Connor	Indigo Shire Council
Guest:	

1.2 Apologies

Hon Greg Aplin MP	Member for Albury
Mr Adrian Wells	MDA
Cr David Wortmann	Mayor – Towong Shire Council
Cr Stuart Heriot	Greater Hume Shire
Cr Peter Day	Urana Shire Council
Cr Alna Urquhart	Urana Shire Council
Cr James Trenergy	Mayor – Indigo Shire Council

1.3 Declaration of Interests

There was no Declaration of Interests received by the Chairperson.

2. WELCOME

2.1 Cr David Thurley – Chair Region 1

Cr Thurley welcomed members and guests to the meeting and declared the meeting opened and noted the apologies received.

Moved: Cr Fiona Schirmer, **Seconded:** Cr George Martin

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting on 27 November 2015 in Albury.

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn, **Seconded:** Cr Fiona Schirmer

MOTION: That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 meeting held on Friday 27 November 2015 in Albury be accepted.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chairman's Report

Canberra Visit – Stakeholder engagement

On 21st January I travelled to Canberra with the CEO Emma Bradbury for several meetings. We met first with Phillip Glyde the new CEO of the MDBA who had been in the role for only 14 days. We indicated that the MDA would be holding a strategic planning workshop in February and would appreciate input from the MDBA. Phillip Glyde expressed some concerns at recent actions of the MDA which had undermined the level of trust between the two bodies. He also acknowledged that the MDBA had problems with their communication strategy and indicated it would be a major focus of his.

He also acknowledged that the MDA could play a very important role in providing feedback to the Authority and helping to communicate issues around the plan to Local Government.

We also visited Matthew Coulton Senior Policy to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Barnaby Joyce. Matt indicated that it would be very helpful to him and the Minister if the MDA could keep the Minister's office informed of issues and concerns raised by Local Government and members of the Regions.

On 22nd we met with David Papps the Commonwealth Environment Water Holder and two of his staff. We reiterated the matters raised with the MDBA and agreed to improve two way communications between the parties.

Strategic Plan

A planning workshop was held at Echuca from the 19th – 21st February. The sessions were facilitated by Robert Rendell of Rendell-McGuckian, a company with a long history in irrigation matters. Six regions were represented at the workshop. A detailed strategic plan will be written up in the next few weeks but a summary of the proceedings has been circulated to all Regions and members.

Board elections

There were 2 nominations for President and Vice President. David Thurley was elected President and Barry Featherston of Alexandrina Council was elected Vice President.

Region Chairs update

As a result of resignations several regional chairman positions are vacant. The Board has authorised the CEO to contact Councils (Mayors and CEOs) in these regions and invite them to nominate a Chairperson.

The Strategic Plan 2016-2019 will be distributed in mid March.
The Shire of Campaspe withdrew their support for the MDA.

The Committee congratulated Cr Thurley on his appointment.

Voting rights to be listed on the next available agenda after the Strategic Plan is released.

Moved: Cr Schirmer, **Seconded:** Cr Tony Quinn

MOTION: That the Chairman's report be accepted.

CARRIED

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Groundwater extraction and use

Cr O'Connor to put forward a motion after its presentation to Indigo Shire regarding groundwater extraction and use at the next Region 1 meeting, to be considered as a motion from Region 1 for the annual conference.

6.2 Other matters

Finance statement will be available on the website soon. Councillor Thurley gave a verbal update on the finance report presented to the last Board meeting

7. STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1 To be held at the Corowa Shire on Friday, 20th May 2016

Agenda item: To hold AGM in February 2017 instead of November 2016

9. CLOSE

9.1 The meeting closed at 11.58am.

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
Indigo Shire Council for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 1.*