



Murray Darling Association Inc.

admin@mda.asn.
au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490
493

Level 1, 250
Anstruther Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

Minutes

*Murray Darling Association Region Eight Meeting
Friday 25 September 2020, 11.30am
Via Zoom meeting*

1. Welcome by Cr Brian Lockyer – Chair

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Attendance

Cr Brian Lockyer (Barunga West), Mayor Denis Clark (Northern Areas), Mayor Wayne Thomas and CEO Helen Macdonald (Clare and Gilbert Valleys), Mayor Ruth Whittle and A/CEO Colin Davies (Peterborough) and Simon Millcock CEO Legatus Group as secretariat.

4. Apologies

CEO MDA Emma Bradbury, Mayor Phillip Heaslip (Mt Remarkable), Bill O'Brien (Light) and CEOs David Stevenson (Goyder) and Dylan Strong (Orroroo Carrieton).

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 8 meeting held on the 26 June 2020 via zoom be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved: Mayor Denis Clark Seconded: Mayor Wayne Thomas

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

6.1 Basin-scale Environmental Watering – report with agenda noted

6.2 Drought Futures Fund – report with agenda noted. Simon Millcock advised that via the Northern and Yorke Regional Alliance Edge Consulting were completing a Future Drought Fund – Opportunities for the Northern and Yorke Region which should be available by the end of September 2020. The Legatus Group and or member councils have been identified in the report as eligible to apply and or partner with others for some of the funding streams. Simon Millcock advised that the current set of projects being progressed and identified in the report by the Legatus Group (1) Smart Irrigation, (2) Stormwater Harvesting, (3) Reuse of Wastewater and (4) Wellbeing

were not currently progressed far enough for appropriate applications for the current round which closed on 25 September 2020.

6.3 Water Supply Infrastructure MDA Region 8 - report with agenda by Cr Lockyer was noted. General discussion held and Cr Lockyer seeking further input from Councils for follow up with SA Water. Invitation to be extended to SA Water to attend next meeting and provide input re water security and its ability to accommodate residential and industry growth across the region.

7. Presentations

Nil

8. Reports

8.1 Chairman's Report

Cr Lockyer reported that between 14th-16th September 2020 he attended (virtually) the MDA National Conference and AGM and heard from numerous speakers and dignitaries including:

- The Honorable Michael McCormick (Deputy Prime Minister)
- Dave Thurley OAM,
- Cr Dennis Patterson of Greater Shepperton Council and host City,

Plus: Ian Davidson, Chris Olszak, Tim Flannery, Liz Ritchie, Fiona Simpson, Brendan McRandle, Phillip Goyder The Hon Keith Pit MP, Terri Butler, Rohan Hamden, Bruce Pascoe, River Connect, Adam Courtenay, Mick Keogh OAM, Bridgett Leopoldo, Andrew Nolan, Jody Swirepik and Carmel Pollino

The experience and qualifications of the speakers was of extreme importance to the direction/safety and protection of the Murray Darling Basin. Topics included, Barmah Choke, buy back of 450 GL water, underground storage proposals, building of more dams and general wellbeing of the population. As well as Agriculture and Environmental impacts.

He advised that he found the forum very enlightening and the questions asked very profound whilst it was a bit prolonged sitting in front of the computer for three days and that for such an event face to face is more suitable. He recommended that members take the opportunity to attend or if able to live stream the conferences. This is to better understand the difficulties and problems related to the MD Basin which is very delicate. We have the ability to front the powers to be of what occurs on the rivers.

He noted that just because Region 8 is not situated on the Basin, the region draws from the greatest river in this country. Whatever happens on the Murray up/down stream effects the region. He outlined his concerns around water security noting that "One day you may turn on your tap and nothing will come out. As happened when Joy Baluch the then Mayor of Port Augusta found out when there was a fracture in the Morgan Whyalla distribution pipeline that shut down water supply for several days, water was carted in until the problem was rectified. The inconvenience and safety were a slap in the face as no one was prepared. It does not say that this may happen again in the future and we should be prepared. We must learn from the past. We also should encourage other councils within the Region to become members of MDA as the greater representation the louder the voice."

8.2 CEO's Report

The meeting noted that Emma Bradbury was seeking feedback on a Climate Change Position Statement and Action Plan. Consensus from the meeting was the Northern and Yorke Alliance is completing its new Climate Change Sector and this along with the Legatus Group 'Emerging themes for drought response and climate change resilience' are to be provided as a regional response.

9. General Business

Nil

10. Other Business

Invites to other regions to present at Region 8 meetings. The meeting indicated there would be great value in having other MDA Regions provide a presentation at future meeting and Simon Millcock to liaise with Cr Lockyer on invites.

11. Close

The meeting was closed at 12.20 pm and the next meeting to be held Friday 11 December 11.30am

Unconfirmed