



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

Friday 27 April 2018 2.30pm
Strathalbyn Library
Alexandrina Council

Minutes

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1. Present

Voting Members

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barry Featherston | Alexandrina Council |
| Vern Leng | Coorong District Council |
| Julie Barrie | Coorong District Council |
| Clem Schubert | Rural City of Murray Bridge |
| Ian Mann | Individual Member |

Guests:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Shen Mann | MDA-R6 Executive Officer |
| Vincent Cammell | CEO, Coorong District Council |
| Emma Bradbury | CEO, Murray Darling Association (via Video Conference) |
| Suzanne Rex | River Lakes & Coorong Action Group |
| Elizabeth Tregenza | River Lakes & Coorong Action Group |

1.2. Apologies:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Adrian Pederick | Member for Hammond |
| Glenn Rappensberg | CEO, Alexandrina Council |
| Keith Loeser | Individual Member |
| Frank Tuckwell | Alexandrina Council |
| Michael Scott | Alexandrina Council |
| Heather Barclay | Rural City of Murray Bridge |
| Gloria Jones | River Lakes & Coorong Action Group |

2. WELCOME

2.1. **Housekeeping: Fire safety, toilets & catering.**

2.2. **Conflict of interest: Material / Actual / Perceived**

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the previous meeting of MDA-R6 held on 16 February 2018 be accepted as a true & correct summary of those meetings.

**Moved Clem Schubert – Seconded Vern Leng
CARRIED**

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Update –Barrages Taskforce

Shen Mann provided the following report on behalf of Anne Liddell, Alexandrina Council:

On 19 April 2018, an inter-agency meeting of administrative staff from three levels of government was held to discuss recent works and research relating to the future of the Barrages and the impact of climate change.

The meeting was attended by:

- *Jarod Eaton and James Guy – Department for Environment & Water*
- *Andrew Reynolds – Murray Darling Basin Authority*
- *Michael Shelton – SA Water*
- *Anne Liddell & Shen Mann – Alexandrina Council*
- *Heather Barclay – Rural City of Murray Bridge*
- *Belinda Croser - Coorong District Council*

The meeting was very productive and an excellent opportunity to share information. While the main focus of current work being undertaken by MDBA, SA Water and DEW appears to be management for water policy and the Basin Plan there is a body of work going into supporting the Barrages for adaptive capacity in the short-medium term (including infrastructure improvements). However there was little evidence of planning for climate changes impacts in the long-term. It was agreed that further education and information of community is needed and the group may perform a useful role to support this moving forward. The next steps are to draft a letter to the State Minister for the Environment, copied to the Australian Government Minister for Water seeking assistance to set up a taskforce and/or working group as a minimum. We will also plan in conjunction with inter-agency staff, a seminar in February/March 2019 in Goolwa and tour by SA Water of Goolwa Barrage to inform Elected Members of all three Councils of current and future works. It was also thought that local government staff participation in the State Government's existing Coorong and Lower Lakes Community Advisory Panel would be useful. This is currently being explored with staff representatives of the three Councils. Further updates on the Ministerial letter will be provided in coming months.

ACTION: Shen to advise Anne that membership of MDA-R6 feels this issue is sufficiently important as to warrant a standalone group, rather than it being subsumed by the Coorong and Lower Lakes Community Advisory Panel.

4.2 Representation – River, Lakes & Coorong Action Group

Elizabeth Tregenza and Suzanne Rex provided information on the establishment and activities of the River, Lakes & Coorong Action Group (RLCAG). RLCAG has been active for 10 years and is a recognised voice for the region, operating independently with no government funding. RLCAG is a member of the Lifeblood Alliance and are supporting the 605GL disallowance motion. Public rally "Mayday for the Murray" organised for 1 May 2018 at Sugars Beach. Members of MDA-R6 are encouraged to attend.

ACTION: Shen to circulate details of RLCAG AGM – 11.30am, Saturday 12 May 2018 at Clayton Bay Community Hall. To be opened by David Speirs MP, Minister for Environment and Water.

ACTION: RLCAG to be added to distribution list for future MDA-R6 meetings. RLCAG are invited to attend future meetings either as an observer or to consider becoming an Organisation Member of MDA-R6.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1. Action List

Attachment A

Outstanding items from the Action List were reviewed. A revised Action List is attached to these minutes.

5.2. CEO's Report

Emma Bradbury

Emma advised that MDA Senior Officer, Angus Verley, has resigned to return to journalism. His replacement Scott Bourne commences on 8 July 2018. In the meantime, Emma has employed a temporary administration assistant.

MDA National has maintained its focus on communications and engagement, visiting South Australia to visit a number of Councils. Submissions have made to the Productivity Commission and the SA Royal Commission.

Emma provided a summary of upcoming engagements as detailed in the MDA April 2018 newsletter. MDA National have been invited to address the Basin Officials Committee on 17 May 2018 re the proposed Social & Economics Impact Framework.

In response to a question on desalination impacts, Emma advised that MDA national can only advocate on behalf of regional issues if they are elevated to her by the region, ideally via a motion at the National Conference.

ACTION: Shen to provide monthly content to Emma re activities of MDA-R6 for inclusion in MDA newsletter.

ACTION: Emma to provide MDA-R6 with copy of project proposal for Social & Economics Impact Framework.

5.3. Chair's Report

Cr Featherston

Refer to Attachment B.

ACTION: Shen to circulate copies of MDA submissions to Productivity Commission and SA Royal Commission to MDA-R6.

5.4. Executive Officer Report

Shen Mann

- Submitted feedback to MDA re NSW Natural Resources Regulator
- Provided feedback to MDA on media release re SA election results
- Assisted MDA in developing media list for MDA-R6
- Liaised with other SA regions re positions for SA Royal Commission
- Developed submissions for Productivity Commission & SA Royal Commission
- Met with Monique White, Regional Engagement Officer, MDBA
- Provided speaking notes to Alexandrina Mayor for meetings with Commissioners
- Supported meeting of MDA-R6 Regional Executive – 6 April 2018
- Prepared ALGA Notice of Motion re Basin Plan for Cr Featherston
- Supported Interagency meeting re Future of the Barrages – 19 April 2018
- Organised travel arrangements for attendance at National Conference
- Attended CCSA event "Understanding the Basin Plan" – 19 April 2018
- Prepared draft MDA-R6 Engagement Strategy

5.5. Media Comments

All

The purpose of this Standing Item is to ensure that MDA-R6 members are aware of each other's positions as expressed in the media. Prior to future meetings, each Local Government member of MDA-R6 will be expected to provide a brief report, listing and attaching a copy of, any relevant media releases, articles and/or appearances by Council spokespersons. MDA national will be asked to provide a similar report. The Executive Officer may also include links to key media reports at a state and national level on issues related to the management of Basin water resources.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1. MDA National Conference

Cr Featherston

The Murray Darling Association 74th National Conference & AGM is being held at the Leeton Soldiers Club in Leeton, New South Wales. The conference will be held over 3 days from 29-31 August 2018.

As per the Constitution, MDA-R6 has the following voting rights at the AGM:

- Alexandrina – 2 Member Council Delegates
- Coorong – 1 Member Council Delegate
- Murray Bridge – 2 Member Council Delegates
- Tatiara – 1 Member Council Delegate
- Region 6 – 3 Regional Delegates

Early bird registration is available now. 15% discount is applicable if registration and payment is completed by 30 June 2018.

ACTION: Member Councils to each appoint their Member Council Delegates prior to 15 June 2018 via Council resolution.

ACTION: Election of Regional Delegates will be added to the MDA-R6 meeting agenda for 15 June 2018.

ACTION: Emma to provide MDA-R6 with current register detailing status of actions taken against motions passed at previous National Conferences.

ACTION: All MDA-R6 members to provide details of suggested motions for National Conference to Shen prior to MDA-R6 Executive Meeting on 1 June 2018.

ACTION: Motions for National Conference to be added to MDA-R6 meeting agenda for 15 June 2018.

6.2. Royal Commission Submission

Attachment C

That the MDA-R6 submissions for the Productivity Commission and SA Royal Commission be endorsed.

**Moved Clem Schubert – Seconded Vern Leng
CARRIED**

6.3. Strategic Directions – Engagement Strategy

Shen Mann

Shen presented a draft Engagement Strategy for discussion. A revised version of the Engagement Strategy reflecting these discussions will be tabled at the next meeting.

ACTION: All to provide details to Shen of industry & community stakeholder groups who could be approached to consider membership of MDA-R6, in addition to those already listed in the draft Engagement Strategy.

ACTION: Minutes of MDA-R6 to be sent to Murraylands & Riverland LGA. Shen to enquire as to whether minutes should/could be tabled at Southern & Hills LGA.

ACTION: Shen to organise meeting of Council media/communications officers to workshop branding for MDA-R6 i.e. region name & key messages.

6.4. Other Business

- Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy Inquiry into the management and use of Commonwealth environmental water is holding a public hearing at the Murray Bridge Town Hall on 2 May 2018.
- Is it time to revive discussions on the Lake Albert-Coorong Connector? Position of current MP for McKillop, Nick McBride is unknown. Worth speaking with Faith Coleman. ACTION: to be researched for Strategic Directions Scoping Paper 2(b).
- Vincent Cammell tabled a letter from Dr Paula A Reynolds of Lincolnshire Fish Health Laboratories & Research Centre in the UK addressed to an Australian Senator. The letter raises a number of concerns about the potential release of the Carp Herpes Virus into the Australian environment. ACTION: Shen to forward letter to National Carp Control Plan staff requesting a response in relation to the matters raised in the letter.
- MDBA has released “Rivers. Worth It” campaign materials. Copies for display in Council offices can be sourced from Monique White, Regional Engagement Officer.

7. NEXT MEETING

Date: 15 June 2018

Time: 9.30am for 10am start

Location: Murray Bridge Town Hall, 13-15 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge

8. CLOSE

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Alexandrina Council for their support in hosting this meeting of MDA Region 6.

MDA Region 6 - Minutes Action List - as at 9 May 2018

| Minute | Item | Details | Responsible Person | Target Completion Date | Notes | Review |
|--------------------------|-------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------|
| April 2017 April 2018 | 9.4 | Lake Albert-Coorong Connector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write to DEWNR seeking confirmation regarding the Lake Albert connector to seek if it is still under consideration. - Speak with Faith Coleman - Determine position of current MP for McKillop, Nick McBride. | Chair/EO | August 2018 | V. Leng has discussed with Jarrod Eaton & Andrew Beal. Not currently being actioned by State Government. EO to continue to liaise with State Government as per prioritisation of Strategic Directions report. | |
| 002/17 April | 6.1 | Invoices for membership to be sent out to members with a uniform due date prior to June 30 each year. | Chair/Emma | June 2018 | Angus has confirmed invoices for 18/19 will be sent on 1 July 2018. EO to undertake recruitment drive in collaboration with Chair prior to June 2018. | |
| 008/15 Oct | 5.6.3 | Register of Members Pursuant to Clause 24 of the Constitution, Emma Bradbury is responsible for maintaining a register of members. Region 6 maintains a meeting attendance database. | E.Bradbury/ Executive Officer | Ongoing | Current membership database provided by MDA on 16/1/18. Members Councils have provided resolutions appointing Member Council Representatives. Tatiara has only appointed one Member Council Representative and is entitled to two. Do they want to appoint another? | |
| 006/15 Oct | 5.4 | MDA Region 6 Executive Officer – 1 day per week for 12 months Jointly funded by Alexandrina, Coorong and Murray Bridge (\$7K each). Position advertised on 8 December 2017 and applications close 5 January 2018. Selection panel to include representation from each Council. At conclusion of 12 months, R6 will review the effectiveness of the position with a view to recommending its continuance and funding. | Alexandrina | February 2019 | Shen Mann of Alexandrina Council appointed in February 2018. Review of position to occur prior to Feb 2019 in time for 19/20 budget bid cycle. | |
| 002/15 Oct | 4.1 | Facebook Site for MDA-R6 | Chair/EO | | Emma advised V. Leng that MDA presence on FB is preferred via the main MDA Facebook page. Future role of Facebook in MDA-R6 communications to be | |



* Denotes Item Completed & will be removed next meeting

MDA Region 6 - Minutes Action List - as at 9 May 2018

| Minute | Item | Details | Responsible Person | Target Completion Date | Notes | Review |
|------------|------|---|--------------------|------------------------|--|--------|
| | | | | | considered by EO as per prioritisation of Strategic Directions report. | |
| Feb 2018 | 4.2 | Future of the Barrages Anne Liddell to provide regular updates on progress to each R6 Ordinary Meeting. | Anne Liddell/EO | Ongoing | Shen to advise Anne that MDA-R6 feels a standalone group is needed rather than having issues dealt with via Coorong & Lower Lakes CAP – April 2018 | |
| Feb 2018 | 5.2 | Jarod Eaton Invite Jarod Eaton to present at next MDA inter-regional meeting in SA | Chair/EO | May/June 2018 | | |
| Feb 2018 | 5.4 | Regional Secretariat Position Description / Task List Shen to work with Emma to develop standardised position description/task list for regional secretariats. | EO | As time allows | | |
| Feb 2018 | 6.1 | Priorities from Strategic Directions Report EO to prepare Engagement Strategy (Priority 3), Scoping Briefs for Priorities 2a, 2b and 2d and a response to MDBA socio-economic data (Priority 4a) | EO | Ongoing | Engagement Strategy presented at April 2018 meeting. Priority 2A to be presented at June meeting. | |
| Feb 2018 | 6.2 | City of Victor Harbor Barry & Keith to jointly approach new CVH CEO with respect to membership of the MDA. | Chair/Keith Loeser | June 2018 | To be considered as part of Engagement Strategy being developed by EO | |
| Feb 2018 | 6.2 | Professor Mike Young Invite Professor Young to speak with a future meeting of Region 6 when an appropriate list of questions/topics is to be under discussion i.e. sustainable communities. | EO | TBD | | |
| April 2018 | 4.2 | River Lakes & Coorong Action Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCLAG to be added to distribution list for future MDA-R6 meetings - RCLAG invited to become Organisation Member of MDA-R6 | EO | ASAP | | |



* Denotes Item Completed & will be removed next meeting

MDA Region 6 - Minutes Action List - as at 9 May 2018

| Minute | Item | Details | Responsible Person | Target Completion Date | Notes | Review |
|------------|------|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------|--------|
| April 2018 | 5.2 | MDA Newsletter EO to provide monthly content to Emma re activities of MDA-R6 for inclusion in MDA newsletter | EO | Monthly | | |
| April 2018 | 5.2 | Emma to provide copy of project proposal for Social & Economic Impacts Framework. | EO/Emma | ASAP | | |
| April 2018 | 6.1 | Emma to provide MDA-R6 with register detailing status of actions taken against motions passed at Dubbo and Renmark national conferences. | EO/Emma | ASAP | | |
| April 2018 | 6.1 | 2018 National Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member Councils to appoint Member Council delegates prior to 15 June 2018 via Council resolution - Election of regional delegates & motions for national conference to be added to June agenda of MDA-R6 - All MDAR-6 members to provide details of suggested motions to National Conference to Shen prior to 1 June 2018 | ALL | June 2018 | | |
| April 2018 | 6.3 | Engagement Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All MDA-R6 members to provide details to Shen of industry & community stakeholder groups to be approached for Organisational Membership of MDA-R6 - Minutes of MDA-R6 to be sent to Murraylands & Riverland LGA. Shen to enquire as to whether minutes should/could be tabled at Southern & Hills LGA. - Organise meeting of Council media/communications officers to workshop branding for MDA-R6 i.e. region name & key messages. | EO | Update in June 2018 | | |



* Denotes Item Completed & will be removed next meeting

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

April 2018

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission was launched on 23 January 2018 to investigate the operations and effectiveness of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, including whether the Plan is being complied with.

The Royal Commission is now calling for written submissions from people or organisations who have relevant experiences with the Murray-Darling Basin. Submissions are due by 30 April 2018.

At the National Board Meeting 373 the Board moved that that Region Chairs oversee the preparation of regional submissions. I have met with the Commissioner and his team and was impressed with their understanding of the issues.

The Productivity Commission is required by the Water Act 2007 to undertake inquiries into the effectiveness of the implementation of the Basin Plan and Water Resource Plans every five years, with the first to be completed by the end of 2018.

In addition, The MDA has accepted an invitation from the Productivity Commission's Environment Commissioner Professor Jane Doolan to sit on the stakeholder working group for the inquiry.

To inform the inquiry, the Commission held public forums in 14 locations around the Basin throughout March and April. The MDA also lodged a Submission in response to the Issues Paper by April 19. That paper is attached.

On March 15 the MDA provided its 'Social and Economic Impacts Assessment and Response Framework' project proposal to the ministers of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

Ministers were invited to consider the proposal, which the MDA believes will provide a significant benefit to all stakeholders in the continuing implementation of, and commitment to, the Basin Plan.

The proposal was also distributed to other non-Ministerial Council politicians, including Michael McCormack, Tony Burke and Anne Ruston.

The proposal has the support of both the CSIRO and the University of Canberra. The proposal originated in 2016, when a Murray Darling Basin Plan Impacts Evaluation Framework was prepared by the MDA in collaboration with the Western Research Institute .

I am confident that the proposal has merit and is sufficiently rigorous to fulfill its stated purpose. An application for funding for the project was submitted to the Building Better Regions Fund in December. Staff from the fund have been in contact several times this month to request more information, include a cost-benefit analysis which was submitted in March.

Following discussions at the Strategic Planning Workshop in Albury, the MDA has booked an exhibition booth at the ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government. The event will run from Sunday June 17 to Wednesday June 20 and will be held at the National Convention Centre in

Canberra. The primary purpose of the exhibition booth is to promote the MDA National Conference and AGM.

The MDA Constitution (Part 6, section 17 (6)) states that any motions for the MDA AGM must be included with the Notice of AGM, which in turn must be posted on the MDA website not less than 30 days prior to the AGM.

Therefore, motions must be received by the MDA executive well before July 30, which is the day the Notice of AGM will be posted. Consideration should be given to potential motions from now, particularly given the development and refinement of some motions may be a lengthy process.

News from our National Staff team is that Angus Verley has accepted a position as ABC Rural Reporter for Western Victoria, based out of Horsham. While we lose an exceptional employee and a first rate officer back to his first passion – journalism and rural reporting, Angus's contribution in the time he has been with the MDA has made a material difference the growth of the organisation. He will be a solid champion and a very well informed journalist and media contact in regional Victoria, and in the ABC network.

Emma Bradbury has conducted an exit interview that will assist in securing a sound replacement. The position was advertised from 28th March and applications closed on 6th April.

I wrote to Angus wishing him all the best and thanking him for his efforts.

Barry Featherston, Region 6 Chair

April 2018

Attachment - Productivity Commission Report



River Lakes and Coorong Action Group Inc

PO Box 194 | Milang SA 5256 | m 0438 858 219 | ABN 23 590 559 324

Winner 2009 Jill Hudson Environmental Award

Annual General Meeting 2018

**To be opened by the Hon David Speirs,
Minister for Environment and Water, South Australia**

at Clayton Bay Community Hall

on **Saturday 12 May 2018**

at **11.30** am

12.15 Lunch - please bring a plate to share

1 pm Committee report

Treasurer's report

Election of committee and office bearers

For further information please contact:

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