

REGION 6  
MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INC.

Special Meeting to be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
9:30am for 10am start  
Alexandrina Council Office

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Apologies  
Meeting opened 9:54am

Apologies: Peter Smith,

2. Introduction and Overview

Chair advised format of meeting

Dot points from this meeting will be tabled at MDA Board.

3. Conflict of Interest

- Members to declare any conflict of interest

4. Board Members Code of Conduct

- Applies to Board Members
- Chairman will not enter discussion regarding Secretary of MDA Region 6 – matter between MDA Board.
- Needs to cover Region as a whole – what is considered private membership?
- Second dot point- board member duty statement – why can't all members know what duty statement is
- Second dot point (second paragraph) - Not disclose official information.... – lack of information – members require through the chair, Agenda for the Board meeting, to allow direction for chair / members
- Disclose personal or business interest –
- Chair advised to raise concerns with code of conduct we can record it and report back. This is just beginning of discussion. Preliminary summary of meeting will be sent out to members, so members can review further and provide feedback back, prior to final comments being sent to board.
- Code of Conduct developed by MDA Board.

- Constitution being reviewed by MDA Board, average member won't look at constitution until Board has approved, then it's sent to Members. No opportunity to review finished constitution
- Code of conduct is not part of constitution
- Members to go to MDA website and review constitution Version 5 and read policy and procedures
- Channel all communication between board and staff – requires revision
- Who has authority to go to press / statements
- Bully / Harassment – issues within boards
- Timelines set by board – Chair advised aware of timelines and MDA R6 will continue conversations, take your time, think it through and opportunity to report issues to Danae to finalise response going back to Board.
- All comments to be sent to Danae

#### 5. Governance Proposals

- Purpose
  - o Don't have draft of stable succession plan
  - o Don't have draft of Corporate Plan
  - o Succession Plan - What about the Regions.
  - o Governance Model – staff driven, not member driven
- Background
- Actions already taken
  - o
- Proposal
  - o .
- Board of Directors
  - o All region chairs to be retained on future board.
  - o Member driven organisation
  - o MDA state reference committee SA be re-activated
  - o That we accept individual state reps on national board, but each state has own state board and includes representative from each region and state rep.
  - o Representative from farming and irrigation, environmental and business & economic sector – how will this be determined? i.e. where are they from? Constitution to be re-written to include as a member
  - o Many areas not being represented in the policy manual i.e. tourism etc.
  - o Have to consider representation of all consumers of the river
- Committee of Regional Chairs
  - o Based on assumption that will only be one seat from SA – there is no provision for region to come together as a group to discuss with state vice president. – Reactivation of state reference committee

- Needs to be a directive from the board to various state holders to introduce state reference committee i.e. SA
- We reject the new model of board of directors and therefore the committee of Regional Chairs is irrelevant
- National org set up that could benefit state government, urge state government to convene meeting of chairs of region
- That the SA Regions as a collective liaise on an bi-annual or annual basis with State Government bodies on MDB matters
- Why can't at a regional level sanction, dismiss and right of appeal
- Needs to be clause included to empower regional board to replace positions
- Need to re-elect office bearers following Local Government elections to ensure any previous members no longer elected in LG can be replaced
- Organisation still does not have effective business plan / strategic plan – issues of succession should be addressed in these plans.
- Recommendation
  - Strongly against paying board / directors fees
  - Needs to be adequate budget for travel and expenses
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#### 6. Responses of R 6 Councils

- Alexandrina Council has responded and a follow up response from delegates is also going to be sent.
- Other Councils
  - Still time for Councils to respond, and delegates responses. Ensure delegate response / council responses are consistent.

#### 7. Summary of meeting

#### 8. Meeting Close 12:10pm

General Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 may or may not be AGM if not AGM then AGM be postponed to Fri 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Notice of Motions to Danae to provide to Frank.