



REGION 10 ORDINARY MEETING

MINUTES

Location: Via Online Microsoft Teams App
Time/date: 9:30 am Thursday 21 July 2020
Presenters: The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP –
NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing

1. ATTENDANCE

The Chair declared the meeting open and thanked those present.

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay respect to the Elders both past, present and emerging

1.1 Present:

Cr Phyllis Miller OAM (Mayor) (Chair)	Forbes Shire Council
Cr Bill West (Mayor)	Cowra Shire Council
Cr Brian Lockyer (Region 8 Chair)	Burunga West Council
Cr Reg Kidd (Mayor)	Orange City Council
Cr Samantha O'Toole (Mayor)	Cabonne Shire council
Cr Bill West (Mayor)	Cowra Shire Council
Jenny Bennett	Centroc Joint Organisation
Emma Bradbury (CEO)	Murray Darling Association
Cathy Keegan	Murray Darling Association
Joined at 10:00 am:	
Mr Steve Loane (General Manager)	Forbes Shire Council
Mr Paul Devery (General Manager)	Cowra Shire Council
Cr Jamie Chaffey (Mayor)	Narrabri Shire Council
Danielle Williams	?
Libby Britten	?
Michael James	?

1.2 Apologies:

Cr Kathy Sajowitz (Mayor)	Oberon Shire Council
Cr Brian Monaghan (Mayor)	Bland Shire Council
Cr Bob Kirk (Mayor)	Goulburn Mulwarre Council
Cr Craig Davies (Mayor)	Narromine Shire Council
Cr Kevin Beatty (Mayor)	Cabonne Council
Cr Doug Batten (Mayor)	Gilgandra Shire Council
Cr Ben Shields (Mayor)	Dubbo Regional Council
Mr Greg Tory (General Manager)	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr Des Kennedy (Mayor)	Mid Western Regional Council
Mrs Cathy Black	Bogan Shire Council

Apologies were accepted: Moved: Cr B West/Cr P Miller

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the meeting held 29 August 2020.

ACKNOWLEDGED

4. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members and encouraged them to discuss membership with neighbouring councils to join Region 10. Region 10 is located in the centre of the Murray Darling Basin and is an integral part of the whole system.

The Chair also encouraged everyone to register for the 76th National Conference and AGM scheduled from 14-16 September 2020.

5. PRESENTATION – The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP – NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing

The Chair introduced The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, who was invited to address the meeting regarding the following topics:

- Update on Water Resource Plans;
- Floodplain Harvesting Policy;
- Request for extension for further consultation on Regional Water Strategies;
- MDA 76th National Conference and AGM.

The Chair thanked the Minister for agreeing to address Region 10 and acknowledged the work previously undertaken by the State Government.

Minister Pavey acknowledged the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

Minister Pavey thanked the members of Region 10 and acknowledged the work achieved over the past decade.

The Minister advised she was in Orange to announce \$35M in funding for infrastructure, stormwater harvesting and pipelines projects in the Orange and Bathurst Shires.

There is a lot to do, regional water strategies are at crunch point in the Murray Darling. A lot of the large goals have been met and the changes in 2012 need to be legislatively changed.

The Chair said it was really heartening to hear about the buybacks that is happening. Unless buybacks are strategic, they can absolutely destroy communities.

Jenny Bennett: thanked the Minister for acknowledging the great work that this region has undertaken. She reiterated that collaboration is the missing piece. State Agencies, Local Government and Regional Organisation want to be part of the conversation.

Cr Brian Lockyar from Region 8 said their biggest concern is turning on the tap. There is not enough strength within their region to advocate for water security, development and infrastructure. He appreciates the Chair's invitation to join this meeting.

Cr Bill West: Offered assistance with regard to the issue occurring at the lower end of Wyangala Dam. He expressed frustration regarding taking environmental water out of the Dam in 2019 (22,000 megs). What constitutes the environment? What does the actual environment look like?

Minister Pavey: This is a very good question and a great discussion point.

Emma Bradbury: Thanked the Minister for attending the meeting. In particular she thanked the Minister for listening to communities regarding implementation and consultation on projects. Discussion regarding consultation arose at the MDA Board meeting held on 20 July. The MDA will continue to work with Peter Hansen and the Department but will always welcome the Minister's support.

The Chair thanked the Minister for her attendance.

Minister Pavey left the meeting at 10:37 am.

Cr Bill West stated the Minister does a very good job for our regions. However, we need to pursue clarity around the action occurring up and down the Murray Darling Basin.

MOTION: That the Murray Darling Association seek an agreement on the definition of natural environment across the Murray Darling Basin.

Moved: Cr B West Seconded: Cr P Miller

CARRIED

6. REPORTS

6.1 MDA CEO's Report:

The CEO's report was taken as read. It was noted that all CEO reports are available on the MDA Website.

The CEO advised the Murray Darling Association Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 was adopted by the Murray Darling Association Board on 20 July 2020 and is available for distribution.

This document represents the culmination of almost 2 years of consultation and engagement. It is the next step in defining the identity, the purpose and the vision of the Murray Darling Association now and into the future.

The Plan's top three priorities are:

1. Murray Darling Basin Local Government and Community Centre of Excellence: providing a space for local government and stakeholders across the Basin to collaborate and innovate;
2. Project Development: developing and delivering projects and initiatives that deliver value for Basin communities;
3. Tools for regions – ensuring our members have the products and tools they need to lead with strength and authority.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by providing information, facilitating discussion and seeking to inform government policy.

The vision is for local government and communities to work together to achieve a healthy, vibrant and thriving Murray Darling Basin.

The CEO advised the Murray Darling Association 76th National Conference registrations will open this week.

The Chair welcome to Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor of Narrabri.

6.2 Delegates Reports:

The Chair advised a template will be available for regions to report on a monthly basis. These reports are a key service and will support delegates report back to their individual councils.

7. **BUSINESS ARISING**

7.1 Region 10 – Confirmation of Voting Delegates for AGM

The CEO requested members check their voting delegate records are correct prior to the National AGM.

Cr Reg Kidd will need to nominate as a voting delegate.

ACTION: The CEO is to forward voting delegate information to Cr Reg Kidd.

8. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

8.1 Climate Ready Communities:

The Board resolved that the MDA prepare a statement of position in relation to Climate Ready Communities. Regions were asked to prepare a profile.

Current project profile to identify key issues and priorities for each region. MDA has established a statement of action for members to take back to their communities. This process taps into existing works already undertaken within councils so we encourage you to contribute towards this project.

ACTION: The Chair to forward out information requesting feedback from members for inclusion in the Climate Ready Communities document.

8.2 Motions 2020 MDA - AGM

The Chair asked all Regions to consider potential motions for the annual General Meeting scheduled 16 September 2020.

Motions are to align with the priorities of their member councils as a region.

The Chair advised Region 10 incorporates 25 councils including Singleton, Muswellbrook, Goulburn, Mudgee and Bourke and covers two thirds of the state. A review of the boundaries of the regions is necessary as the area is incredibly large, not practical and unreasonable to chair in its present format.

Jenny Bennett offered JO assistance to align with the MDA regarding the water security statement.

Cr Bill West enquired what happened to the Sefton Report? The CEO advised the report was handed to the Minister on time. The MDA are seeking information as to why it has not been released.

MOTION: That the boundaries of Region 10 be reviewed with a report to be brought back to the next meeting. BW/PM

Moved: Cr B West Seconded: Cr P Miller

CARRIED

8.3 Our Region Informing the Board Agenda

Nil.

9. OTHER ITEMS

Nil.

10. CLOSE

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10:42 am.