



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Albury, NSW 2640

Region One Meeting

Date: Friday 22 February 2019, Start Time: 10.30am

Location: Robert Brown Room

Address: 553 Kiewa Street, Albury

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	AlburyCity Council – Chairman Region One
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire
Cr Terry Weston	Greater Hume Shire
Cr David Wortmann	Towong Shire Council
Cr Ron Mildren	City of Wodonga
Mr Geoff Lucas	Beechworth (Private Member)
Mr Mark Verbaken	City of Wodonga
Ms Bridgett Leopold	CEO, RAMJO
Guest: Adrian Wells	

1.2 Apologies

Cr Sarah Nicholas	Alpine Shire
Ms Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association
Mr Brad Ferris	AlburyCity Council
Cr Kevin Mack	AlburyCity Council
Ms Sussan Ley	Federal Member of Farrer
Mr Andrew Lawson	AlburyCity Council
Mr Greg Whorlow	AlburyCity Council
Cr Bernard Gaffney	Indigo Shire Council
Alexandra Anthony	Murray Darling Basin Authority

Moved: Cr David Wortmann, Seconded: Cr Terry Weston

That the apologies be received, noted and accepted.

CARRIED

1.3 Declaration of Interests

There was no Declaration of Interests received by the Chairperson.

2. WELCOME

Cr Thurley declared the meeting opened and welcomed all delegates.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 30 November 2018 in Albury.

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn, Seconded: Cr David Wortmann

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region One Meeting held on Friday 30 November 2018 in Albury be accepted.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Water Trading between NSW and Victoria:

In response to a question from the last meeting, the Chair received information from Edwina Carter of the Murray Darling Basin Association, regarding Water Trading between NSW and Victoria.

The information provided confirmed water is “unbundled” and therefore can be sold between the States.

5. REPORTS

5.1 CEO’s Report

a. Members were advised that the MDA will be seeking funding from the State and Federal Governments, as well as other agencies, to ensure its continued operation. MDA will be seeking \$4M over 5 years.

A proposed motion for each Council to consider, along with the business case, will be provided to member Councils next week.

b. Members were advised the MDA will be writing to the NSW Premier regarding 100,000 hectares of proposed permanent plantings in the Region. There is serious concern regarding where the water will come from and the MDA will be asking the Premier to provide further information.

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn, Seconded: Mr Mark Verbaken

That the CEO’s Report be received, noted and accepted and will be distributed with the Minutes.

CARRIED

5.2 Chairman's Report

From the 1st to 3rd February I attended the strategic planning session in Echuca-Moama which was attended by approximately 50 delegates representing all regional of the MDA. Region 1 representatives from Albury, Towong, Indigo and Federation were present. The updated strategic plan will be released shortly. The most noteworthy thing to come out of the weekend was a resolution to seek government funding of \$5 million over a 4-year period. The full business case will be available shortly and all Councils will be asked to support the initiative by writing to Federal and State Ministers.

On Monday 18th February I attended a session at Wodonga Council and gave a briefing about the activities of the MDA and stressed the need for Councils to retain membership to strengthen the voice of the MDA at this critical time.

There have been two issues relating to blue-green algae outbreaks in this region. The first was the alert made by NSW Water relating to Lake Hume and the other was from a group of residents from Tumbarumba concerning Mannus Creek.

The National Carp Control Working Group is seeking a representative from Councils in Region 1 to participate in the Working Group.

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn, Seconded: Mr Mark Verbaken

That the Chairman's Report be received, noted and accepted.

CARRIED

5.3 Blue Green Algae – Red Alert – Lake Hume

Discussion was held around the issue of the closure of the whole of Lake Hume when a small number of blue green algae blooms were discovered during the Summer period. Permanent signage warning of blue green algae blooms works well for ornamental lakes, but this does not work for Lake Hume or other lakes that are used for recreational purposes.

Moved: Mr Mark Verbaken, Seconded: Cr David Wortmann

That Cr Thurley write to NSW Water to highlight the issue of Mannus Creek and the blue green algae alerts for Lake Hume.

CARRIED

9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Indigenous Water Issues

Conflict of Interest received from Cr Ron Mildren, who remained in the room but did not vote. Cr Mildren is a member of the Mungabareena Aboriginal Board.

Discussion was held regarding the view of indigenous people on the water rights in Australia.

Moved: Mr Mark Verbaken, Seconded: Mr Geoff Lucas

That Cr Thurley would invite Rene Wood from Murray Lower Darling River Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) to address a future meeting of the MDA with regard to this topic.

CARRIED

9.2 Proposed Removal of Cap on Water Buy Backs

Discussion was held regarding the proposed removal of the cap on water buy backs – does the MDA have a view to support or oppose the removal of the cap?

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn, Seconded: Cr D Wortmann

That Cr Thurley will draft a Statement from the MDA stating their view of opposition to the proposed removal of cap on water buy backs and distribute this to the members for consideration. When finalised this statement will be presented to the MDA Board.

10.0 STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION

10.1 Adrian Wells – Wetlands of the Murray Darling Basin

The Chair, Cr Thurley thanked Adrian Wells, for his presentation on the Wetlands of the Murray Darling Basin. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

11.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Murray Darling Association Region One will be held on Friday 24 May 2019 in the Robert Brown Room, AlburyCity Council.

12.0 CLOSE

The meeting closed at 11.50am.

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
AlburyCity for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region One.*