



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Minutes of Meeting No. 97 of Region 7 (Greater Adelaide) On Thursday 17th Mar 2016 at Port Adelaide Enfield Council Chambers, Nile St, Port Adelaide SA 5015

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr Lynda Yates	Secretary, Holdfast Bay Council
Cr Peter Jamieson	Region 7 Chair, Port Adelaide Enfield Council
Verity Sanders	Strategic Planner, Port Adelaide Enfield Council
CEO John Moyle	Tea Tree Gully Council
Cr Robin Coleman	Tea Tree Gully Council
Cr Shirley Halls	Playford Council
Cr Denis Davey	Playford Council
Cr David Shetliffe	Walkerville Council
Gary Goland	
Pauline Frost	
Ray Najar	

1.2 Apologies

Mayor Gary Johanson	Port Adelaide Enfield Council
Cr Garth Palmer	West Torrens Council
Cr Arthur Mangos	West Torrens Council
Cr Carol Musyk	Playford Council
Mayor Simon Brewer	Campbelltown Council
Cr Charles Kennedy	Campbelltown Council
Cr Neville Grigg	Campbelltown Council
Thornton Harfield	Tea Tree Gully Council
Vickie Chapman	MP
Michelle Lensink	MP
Adrian Pederick	MP
Rex Adams	
Jim Hullick	
Frank Verrall	
Barbara Hardy	

2. WELCOME

- 2.1 Peter Jamieson apologized for the Mayor's absence. He opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He introduced the speaker, Verity Sanders.

3. MINUTES

3.1 As there was not a quorum for the last meeting, the minutes need not be accepted.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

5. PRESENTATION

Port Adelaide Enfield Water Issues by Verity Sanders, Strategic Planner (Environment)

There is a Powerpoint document for this talk which can be provided on request although as it is mainly photos and therefore large, I would prefer to photocopy it and give it out rather than send it as an attachment.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield covers almost 100 sq km and is one of the largest SA metropolitan councils. It is a diverse area with residential buildings in the east, the main industrial and maritime hub of SA predominantly in the west, waterways such as the Port River and River Torrens plus the estuary and coastline as well. Dry Creek forms the northern boundary. A small part of the new International Bird Sanctuary is in the northern part of PAE including Mutton Cove and the creeks near the Barker Inlet. There are international agreements with many countries for the East Asian Flyway, although Russia has not signed up yet.

Every 3 years an Energy and Water Efficiency Management Plan is created to set targets and monitor outcomes. There is a new plan for this year. One third of the water usage in the council area is for the commercial and industrial sector. There will be new issues caused by increasing housing density (a predicted 7,000 more dwellings in the next 10 years with 10,000 more residents) and lack of open space.

The State Government has set new tree canopy targets of 30% although it is not yet clear if that is across the whole of Adelaide or for each council area. i-Tree is a pilot project of 5 councils using Local Government Association (Research and Development Scheme) funding to do software mapping at various levels of vegetation. Initially, they will concentrate on the upper canopy. In another project, the 3 western Adelaide region councils are looking to undertake aerial thermal mapping and this will be used to spot heat islands where more trees should be planted.

Climate change is being considered via AdaptWest, a project with liaison by the West Adelaide councils of PAE, Charles Sturt and West Torrens. More intense rainfall events, higher evaporation rates and reduced overall rainfall will require greater water efficiency.

PAE has historically had a high usage of bore water and 495 bores are listed, 390 for domestic use. The Council has used water sensitive urban design (WSUD) to install 4 or 5 raingardens at new land divisions. Freshwater wetlands as well as tidal wetlands now exist in the council area. Several ASR (aquifer storage and recovery) schemes are under way. 120,000 kL per year of reclaimed water will be available from the Barker Wetlands Reclaim Water Project to water council ovals and green spaces. There has been a problem at one wetlands where water couldn't be injected to the aquifer as it was contaminated by Simazine, a chemical and carcinogen found in weedkillers (secretary's comment - substances like Pathweeder are available to the public with no warning on the label – why isn't Simazine banned as in Europe?!). Water harvesting is also done in liaison with Salisbury and Charles Sturt Councils. During the last 12 months, 8 reserves in the suburb of

Northfield have been connected to City of Salisbury's purple pipe reclaimed water supply.

Port Adelaide Enfield has reduced its mains water requirements by almost half since 2004 but the cost has still increased from the 2004 level due to the rising costs of mains water (from \$1 a kL to \$3.25 according to Ray Najar). Over the next 12 months an irrigation efficiency audit will be done by PAE on all sporting ovals and large irrigated turf areas with a view to detecting the older and less efficient systems which may be only 50% efficient and replacing them through PAE's 10 year capital works program so as to become 88% efficient. A central irrigation control system has also been installed to allow flexibility of control of irrigation systems and to stop watering if unexpected rain falls. Trees and plants chosen for planting must now be water-efficient and areas of turf have been reduced. 'Green cement' is also now available – it is porous and 'greener' to produce.

Despite all this, PAE still depends on water from the Murray – depending on rainfall in the Adelaide Hills catchment, water from the River Murray varies from 50-80% of mains water that is used.

Ray Najar added a comment that SA Water uses water from the River Murray in preference to the desalination plant because it is cheaper. However, the economic benefit of water from the desalination plant must be considered as, although it may require extra energy to run it, energy is also needed to pump water from the Murray to Adelaide. The extra produce and jobs that could be provided for the state by using more desalinated water needs to be factored in.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Report from Chair of Region 7, Peter Jamieson

Peter said the Board had some new members and so they had held a weekend workshop recently. There is a Board Meeting next week and the plan for the MDA will be passed then.

6.2 Voting Rights

Peter commented that Region 7 is not as polarized as some other regions re voting. There are fears in these regions that individual council members and other private individuals will join the MDA so as to get an individual vote and then vote against the councils. Our region has not had these issues - our individual members were usually council delegates and remain in line with council thinking. Ray Najar pointed out that each region also has 8 votes it can use at the AGM. It was highlighted that if the SA regions are strong they can protect more water flowing down the Murray to SA.

David Shetliffe said that, as a new delegate, he believed the MDA had two main aims:

- At a regional level to encourage water saving by councils, promoting this at meetings via presentations eg. by the host council on its techniques and innovations
- At a national level to promote issues of importance to SA via voting at the AGM

Motion:

That voting remains as per the status quo.

Moved Pauline Frost, Seconded Cr Robin Coleman, Passed

6.3 Call for Nominations for MDA Public Gift Fund (MDF) Committee

Anyone interested should contact Emma Bradbury. There are still vacancies.

6.4 Motion from Cr Arthur Mangos, West Torrens Council

That Region 7 is concerned at the blue-green toxic algae in the Murray Darling Basin. What action can be taken to improve water quality? That the MDA write to the Water Ministers, both States and Federal, to act in this crisis.

Cr Mangos being absent, this was discussed and it was generally agreed that it was difficult to correct this problem, being a naturally occurring event in certain circumstances. A new motion was put, based on the original.

Motion:

That Region 7 is concerned at the blue-green toxic algae in the Murray Darling Basin. What action is being taken by the relevant authorities to rectify the situation? What impact will the blue-green algae have on water quality in South Australia? That the MDA write to the Federal Water Minister and the Water Minister for SA with copies sent to the Water Ministers for Vic and NSW.

Moved Cr David Shetliffe, Seconded Cr Shirley Halls, Passed

Peter Jamieson will inform the Board of the motions moved at this meeting when it meets next week.

6.5 Work Plan for Region 7

This will be discussed at a later meeting.

6.6 Member Contact Phone Details

It was agreed that these could be kept by the secretary for rapid contact re meeting change etc.

5. NEXT MEETING

West Torrens Council in June.

6. CLOSE 9.20pm

Secretary Lynda Yates lyates@holdfast.sa.gov.au ; Mob 0417 484 717

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
Port Adelaide Enfield Council for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 7.*