



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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**Minutes of Meeting No. 93 of REGION 7 (GREATER ADELAIDE)
 On Thursday 21st May 2015 at Campbelltown Council Chambers,
 Montecute Rd, Rostrevor**

1. ATTENDANCE

1.2 Present

Mayor Simon Brewer	Campbelltown Council
Cr Peter Jamieson	Region 7 Chair
Pauline Frost	Deputy Region 7 Chair
Cr Lynda Yates	Acting Secretary, Holdfast Bay
Emma Bradbury	MDA CEO
Greg Toll	MDA President
Cr Arthur Mangos	Deputy Chair, West Torrens
Rex Adams	Walkerville
Cr Robin Coleman	Tea Tree Gully
Cr Shirley Halls	Playford
Cr Andrew Tilley	Mitcham
Glynn Ricketts	Marion Water Resources Coordinator
Gary Goland	Individual MDA Member
Frank Verrall	Individual MDA Member

1.3 Apologies

Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg	Onkaparinga
Cr Carol Musyk	Playford
Cr Denis Davey	Playford
The Hon John Dawkins MLC	Playford
Hon Robert Brokenshire MLC	
Lord Mayor Martin Haese	Adelaide City Council
Adrian Pederick MP	Member for Hammond
Michelle Wooldridge	City of Onkaparinga
Ray Najar	

2. MINUTES

The short minutes of the informal meeting held at Holdfast Bay on 27th Nov 2014 (and sent out with these) were confirmed. Moved Pauline Frost, Seconded Gary Goland, carried.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

As there were 3 new council delegates present (welcome to Andrew, Robin and Shirley), Peter Jamieson suggested we introduced ourselves briefly to each other.

4. WELCOME

Mayor Simon Brewer welcomed the MDA members and introduced Mr Geoff Manuel, Manager Technical Services from Campbelltown City Council. Geoff will make a presentation about water initiatives in Campbelltown. "Waterproofing the East", an effort by a group of councils called the Eastern Alliance, had problems with the modelling so did not get off the ground but Campbelltown is continuing to improve its water management using its own resources and expertise.

President Greg Toll introduced himself and explained his background as a sheep farmer. He is concerned that water is a finite resource and that not enough initiatives are being taken by councils to harvest stormwater. He thinks that in his area the Darling River and Menindie Lakes would both benefit from such harvesting as they are suffering from reduced water flows.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

CEO Emma Bradbury mentioned the responses that were tabled after requests by the MDA regarding 2 SA issues, namely increasing fur seals numbers in the Coorong and the possibility of a Lake Albert connector. The responses were from the Hon Ian Hunter, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation in the SA Government and from the Hon Michelle Lensink, Shadow Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (see attachments).

Emma also mentioned the other motions raised nationally which were sent out with the agenda and Rex Adams moved that these be taken on notice. Seconded by Arthur Mangos. Carried.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Presentation on the MDA

Emma Bradbury went on to discuss future options for the MDA, emphasising that it is up to members to provide guidance on what they want. There have been recent large changes in the MDA organisation with the departure of Ray Najjar and now Adrian Wells will probably not return after illness so that means 25 years of corporate memory is lost. Emma praised Ray's passionate advocacy for the MDA and his focus on engineering.

Emma gave a quick history of the MDA which began in 1944 as the Murray Valley Development League with the aim of providing sufficient water supplies and hydro-electricity to support sustainable production in agriculture, business and local communities. It helped to instigate the Snowy Mountains Scheme. It is still the peak body and provides a focus for local government and community participation in basin-related matters. There are 12 regional groups representing communities of interest. Altogether, the MDA represents 127 municipalities over 14% of the Australian Continent and including 4 states and the ACT so it has a powerful voice if united.

There have been organisational changes in the last year. Offices in 5 places was unsustainable for a small staff so there is now a central office in Echuca, Vic and an office shared with local government at Albury, NSW. This year the staff have reviewed the constitution, assessed the governance model, restructured the organisation to the 2 locations, continued with the ongoing compliance audit, set up a new website

and social media system (trialled and ready to go), done benchmarking against best practice and maintained engagement with members.

Current advocacy issues are :

- Legislation to cap buybacks in irrigation areas
- Greater flexibility in environmental water trading
- Balanced weighting for social, economic and environmental outcomes under the Act
- Constraints management review

Projects/Partnerships :

- VOICA (Water Industry Competition Act 2006 , NSW) – transitioning to a new future with the water and wastewater industries
- National Conference 2015 at Tumut
- A united position on the Murray mouth
- Fruit fly
- Coal seam gas extraction

As the Basin Plan is being implemented now and impacts the whole area, the MDA is especially relevant. It requires informed and active participation of member communities. Elected members and officers must stand together to ensure local government speaks with a united and informed voice and be heard.

6.2 Geoff Manuel-“Local Water-Saving Initiatives in Campbelltown”

Geoff Manuel, Manager Technical Services, Campbelltown City Council

Geoff intends to cover :

- Local geography
- Treatment of reserves
- Lochiel Park
- Max Amber Sportsfield MAR scheme

Local Geography

The City of Campbelltown is bounded by 11km of the River Torrens and Linear Park separating it from the City of Tea Tree Gully in the north, the foothills and the District of Adelaide Hills in the east, Magill Rd and City of Burnside in the south, City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters in the west and City of Port Adelaide Enfield in the north-west.

Campbelltown covers 22 sq km with a population of just over 51,000. It has 3 creeks running from east to west across it with a catchment area of 27 sq km in the Adelaide Hills and a rainfall there of 550 mm per year. Third Creek (the southernmost) travels from the region of Old Norton Summit Road, Fourth Creek comes from Morialta Conservation Park and Marble Hill, Fifth Creek originates in Montacute. The creeks flow on gravel surfaces in their own stream beds but do not flow all year.

Reserves

Water is saved by mulching some areas of reserves and having less grass. Reserve Road, Campbelltown has a water garden with the water running into the reserve and overflowing into the drainage system. Soakage trenches have been installed between the rows of cars in the Council carpark to clean stormwater before it enters the drainage system.

Lochiel Park

This is an award-winning high-density “Green Village” committed to sustainable living. There are 125 2-storey 7.5 star-rated dwellings on one third of a 15 ha site, the remainder of the site is set aside for an urban forest with a southern wetlands for stormwater recycling and a northern wetlands with a natural feature that filters stormwater into the adjacent River Torrens. There has been extensive revegetation.

Stormwater that previously went into the river is now captured from 260 ha above Lochiel Park for treatment and provides the houses with non-potable water. It passes through a gross pollutant trap and then settles in 3 ponds (looked after by SA Water) and the wetlands for 2-3 weeks before going to the treatment station and being pumped into the aquifer via a bore. It is pumped out for laundry and hot water usage in a purple pipe. All dwellings also have a 5KL water tank buried in their backyard and connected to the plumbing. Street and public place water drainage goes into 25 – 30 bio-pits (rather than the normal side-entry pits) which the local community have beautified. Bio-swailes in roadway median strips use native grasses to filter stormwater.

Max Amber Sportsfield MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) scheme

Fifth Creek has an offtake and a small permeable dam to trap some water. Water is pumped to the other side of the reserve to a treatment shed which holds pumps for aquifer storage and recovery. Campbelltown has a licence to put 50ML into the aquifer. When the land was bought in 1976 there was a bore already there which was initially used for sportsground irrigation. A 5000 gallon tank was later used to mix the bore water with tap water as it had become rather salty. Now aquifer discharge and recovery (ADR) treats the water. When Campbelltown was a part of the Eastern Alliance for stormwater, it was given a new bore for the sportsfield as the site was identified as suitable for a biofilter site. It puts 75-90ML from the creek into a fractured rock aquifer that is quite deep. The sportsfield uses 13ML a year. It is hoped eventually to trickle water through bio-swailes for initial cleaning and then run it through ultraviolet light to kill E.coli etc. (E.coli will die after 3 days underground with no light anyway but this ensures water safety).

7

GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Governance Model Discussion (EB008)

Currently the chair for each region automatically gets a seat on the Board of the MDA. Therefore, they represent their council and their regional community on the Board. There has been a suggestion that the Board should be changed to consist of 4 regional chairs, 1 from each state plus 3 skills-based representatives for Social; Economic and Irrigation; Environmental aspects. The Chair of the Foundation would have an eighth seat. There is broad support for this from the current Board and comments have been sought from the councils of the regional chairs. The membership will be consulted soon.

7.2 General Discussion of Local Issues

After the talk, local issues were discussed. Glynn Ricketts of Marion City Council has experience of working on water issues in the Coorong and suggested that water could be diverted from the south-east where it runs into Robe and Kingston (140km south) so as to reduce water salinity. There are two other options – Lake Alexandrina could have the level dropped ½ a metre, fish be provided with fish passes, and then the water pulsed up and down to reduce salinity. There are issues with riparian edge management for this option plus farming occurs right up to the edge of the lake. The other option is the Lake Albert connector which would make the water more salty – hypersaline.

The use of floating solar panels by Infratech was considered. Solar panels lose efficiency as they heat so can be 57% more efficient if cooled in water. This also saves evaporation from the body of water so is a win-win solution. Floating solar can give 3 times the yield of traditional fixed base solar.

The MDA water bank has not bought any more water recently but has sold a small amount.

Murray Darling Foundation - Tax deductible donations are being received from members to purchase water licences for future investment for the Foundation. Other projects include the Save the Murray and Save the Darling Websites that can be freely accessed by students for projects related to the Murray Darling Association.

NEXT MEETINGS 2015

Thursday 23rd July 6pm for 6.30pm at West Torrens, AGM

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