



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 5

www.mda.asn.au ABN: 64 636 490 493

Chairperson:
Peter Hunter

Hosting Council:
Renmark Paringa Council

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Minutes

Region 5 – Murray Darling Association

Karoonda Council Chambers - Monday, 9th December, 2019

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present: Jeff Hall, Ian Mann, Allan Maddocks, Peter Hunter, Yvonne Smith - Michelle Campbell, Neville Crossman, Linda Carruthers

1.2 Apologies:

- Neil Martinson, Mike Fuller, Kym Webber, Mick Beech, Margaret Howie, Peter Walker, Andrew Kassebaum, Peter Raison

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declaration – Material / Actual / Perceived

- NIL

2. WELCOME

Peter Hunter – Deputy Mayor, Renmark Paringa Council

Peter officially opened the meeting at 10am and thanked everyone for their attendance.

It was acknowledged that there was not a quorum & so the presenters / discussions would continue, along with some initial 'planning' for 2020.

We welcomed **Emma Bradbury**, MDA CEO, to the meeting via Zoom link.

A special welcome was also acknowledged to **Michelle Campbell**, CEWO, **Neville Crossman & Linda Carruthers** (MDBA):

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- Monday, 9th September, 2019

Action: The minutes of the MDA Region 5 meeting held in Morgan, on the 9th September 2019 to be accepted / further discussed at the 16th March 2020 meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- nil

5. MDA Region 5

5.1 Draft Meeting Format 2020:

- 2nd Monday of Month - 9:30 for 10am or closest Monday, depending on other MDA or LGA SA Commitments / Holidays etc
- Rotate as per 2019

- 5.2 Potential 2020 Meeting Schedule – to be endorsed at the March Meeting:
- **March 12th/13th** - MDA Strategic Planning – (Board) @ Moama
 - **March 16th** – AGM @ Renmark Paringa Council Chambers
 - **June 1st** – [8th Queens B'Day / 15th ALGA Canberra] @ Berri Barm
 - Motions / AGM Preparation
 - **August 20th** - MDA AGM in Shepparton, Vic
 - **September 14th** @ Waikerie
 - **October 19th** Board Meeting in Canberra
 - **December 7th** @ Morgan
 - **March 8th, 2021** @ Karoonda

Action: Members of the association to confirm suitability of the above meeting dates with Peter. Following confirmation, the final schedule of meeting dates will be circulated.

- 5.3 Region 5 AGM – March 16th – Renmark Paringa Chambers
- This date was previously agreed
 - Leadership for 2020 & beyond
 - Confirm Dates / Topics / Speakers

6. MDA CEO / NATIONAL AGM

- 6.1 CEO, **Emma Bradbury** provided a verbal update via Zoom Video Conference. A summary of the presentation is outlined below:
- Oct/Nov CEO Report is now on website, Emma is happy to take questions relating to this report.
 - ACC enquiries have now closed, MDA put in a submission to that enquiry.
 - Emma and Tony Banks, Exec Officer, has taken a lead role on the basin leadership program.
 - There was a rally in Canberra last week regarding 'can the plan'. Minister Littleproud did a great job at addressing the protestors regarding the MD Plan. It was unclear exactly what the protestors wanted nor how it could be achieved.
 - MD Agreement will be reviewed (this is not the MDB Plan but earlier agreements re water allocations between the states. MDA will report back to government in March next year. The government will likely use MDA network to undertake community consultation for the MD agreement, this is yet to be formalized.
 - Minister Pavey has requested MDA to facilitate meetings to build state-based engagement.
ACTION: Peter to raise this at a board level to seek their thoughts. Particularly around any potential risks, opportunities, benefits that may arise due to the MDA involvement to facilitate engagement around the MDA plan.
 - MDA economic development program: The second round of funding is now open for leadership program. Emma is interested in seeking from the group about projects that could be delivered amongst community.
 - Mick Keelty, Independent Northern Basin Commissioner has developed a report on the issues with the northern basin on Friday, Emma is currently going through the report and preparing a response.
 - Peter thanked Emma for the work of her and her staff for efforts with Toowoomba National AGM in October.

7. MDBA Presentation

Neville Crossman (MDBA), Social and Economic Integration made a presentation, summary below.

- MD Basin Community Committee has a new chair, due to commence in January 2020.
- The basin is experiencing low rainfall, resulting in low flows into River Murray, water storage levels across the basin is also quite low and continuing to decline.

- MDBA has developed a map that outlines the water quality and salinity across the basin and indicates threats to water quality. The map is available online and updated on a monthly basis and outlines the movements across the basin in water quality.
- Watering Sharing Tiers diagram was presented: There was discussion around the community being confused around water sharing. It outlines what parameters kick in depending on what tier level the basin is in.
- Basin Plan Implementation progress is assessed every 5 years, some initial indicators were presented in areas such as water resource plans, water recovery etc.
- Social and Economic Panel: consists of 7 members from across the basin, they are seeking to do a stock take on the MDB conditions and will report to the minister around potential policies that may need to be developed to improve conditions across basin communities. The interim report has been developed; the final report is due in 2020.
- Water Resource Plan: currently there are 8 accredited plans, 3 of those are in SA. The remaining plans on track, the exception being NSW – due by the end of 2019. with 20 not presented nor compete.
- Climate Change: MDBA have developed a research program and commissioned CSIRO to do climate modelling to better understand how it effects the basin.
- ACSEES Lower Lakes Investigation: started investigation around reviewing science, history, current management and policies of the lower lakes.
- Compliance: States are making progress in the compliance compact committees. Metering audits are underway in Sunraysia and Riverland. The Office of Compliance will continue to work with state government to improve efficiencies.
- MDBA is increasing their regional footprint: Recruitment for increased regional MDA staff has commenced across the basin.
- Constraints: ongoing investigations of horticulture in northern Victoria, limited progress at this stage.

8. CEWO Presentation

Michelle Campbell, Commonwealth Environment Water, Local Engagement Officer made a presentation, summary below. The full presentation is [available as an attachment](#).

- Hydro Illogical Cycle – drought / rain / drought
- Southern Spring Flow 2019: Natural flow vs flow after human intervention. Water needs identified at the site-scale. SCBEWC looks at how to coordinate water use to best meet those needs.
- Water in SA, Lower Lakes: what happens when CEW water gets to Lower Lakes? Outlined 5 principles of water delivery. Described what the lake levels would be with or without commonwealth water. Annual barrage flows haven't been met the last three year (650gl) on the basin plan.
- To date water has been released from Tauwitchere barrage, called a 'Spring pulse', this is designed to decrease salinity levels in the Coorong, reports show that water reached about halfway.
- Planning for 2020-21 in terms of e-water storage and how that's delivered.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

nil

9. NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday, 16th March, 2019
Time: 9:30 for 10am
Location: Renmark Paringa Chambers

Room Booking / Morning Tea / Set Up & Preparation Responsibilities: Peter Hunter

10. CLOSE

12.11pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledged and thanked DCKEM for hosting this meeting of Region 5.

A special thanks to Emily Arbon for setting up Zoom links and taking minutes for the meeting.