



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 5

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

Chairperson:
Peter Hunter

Hosting Council:
Renmark Paringa Council

Ph: 0447 177 341

Ph: 08 8580 3000

Minutes

Region 5 – Murray Darling Association

Waikerie Council Chambers

Monday, 3rd June, 2019

Meeting commenced at 10:04am

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Cr Peter Raison | Mid Murray Council |
| • Cr Jeff Hall | Mid Murray Council |
| • Ian Mann | Mid Murray Private Member |
| • Cr Andrew Kassebaum | Berri Barmera Council |
| • Cr Peter Walker | Loxton Waikerie Council |
| • Cr Kym Webber | Loxton Waikerie Council |
| • Cr Allan Maddocks | Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Cr Margaret Howie | Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Cr Peter Hunter | Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Myles Fauser | EO - Renmark Paringa Council & RIT |
| • Ashleigh Baker | EA – Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Emma Bradbury | CEO, MDA via Zoom Online Conference |

1.2 Apologies:

- Neil Martinson – Mayor, Renmark Paringa Council
- Yvonne Smith – District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- Cr Mike Fuller – Berri Barmera Council

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declaration – Material / Actual / Perceived Nil

2. WELCOME

All members & Myles Fauser – Environmental Officer, Renmark Paringa Council & Riverland Irrigation Trust - to our June Meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Ian Mann

That the Minutes of the meeting of MDA Region 5 held in Berri, on the 25th March 2019 are a true & accurate record of the meeting, with the amendment of item 5.2, Cr Hall to be the proxy for Mid Murray Council - not Cr Hassett.

Seconded: Cr Peter Raison

Agreed

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- 4.1 National Conference – Toowoomba – 22nd to 24th October
- Consideration re motions to be put from Region 5.
 - Being aware of all ‘current’ motions is important
 - Members viewed list & actions online.
 - **Action:** Chair to arrange:
 - email to all members re website
 - suggested ‘motion topics’ discussed - asking for members to comment, with the aim of having drafted (via email) topics for potential motions
 - General Discussion:
 - What is the water allocation currently in other states?
 - NSW with small volume of High Security, nearly all growers on zero in past water year / some relief possible but all dependent on rainfall.
 - SA is in a more fortunate position, with larger % of high security but current allocations at 22%. Potential to raise but dependent on rainfall across the southern basin.
 - Discussion around media reports of water being held in dams to stop it entering the Darling.
- 4.2 MDA Board – deferred to CEO ‘Zoom’ Report:
- Refer to item 6.0 – Emma Bradbury Report
- 4.3 Feedback on Tony Herbert – Acting Director, River Murray Operations presentation
Nil
- 4.4 Other items not currently listed - to be dealt with in this agenda
Nil

5. MDA Region 5

- 5.1 Myles Fauser – EO, Renmark Irrigation Trust (RIT) & Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)
- Myles shared with us the exciting work with:
 - Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) / RIT / RPC Cooperation, with a partnership agreement .
 - The project stems back from 2013, with Johnsons Waterhole on the Ral Ral Floodplain, which was highlighted in the vision for SEE Renmark 2024. 500 Ha floodplain jointly owned, the outcomes are to rehabilitate landscapes, create habitat for endangered species and generate an example of localism through community engagement and involvement.
 - In 2016 we entered into a Partnership Agreement with the CEWH to deliver Commonwealth Environmental Water to floodplains adjacent to the Renmark irrigation area utilising the Renmark Irrigation Trust’s infrastructure. Five sites currently underway another 5 initiated for action & a further 5 for short term activation.
 - The future: 15 Sites identified as viable for environmental water delivery through RIT infrastructure. Renmark Environmental Watering Committee will facilitate delivery to other sites & may involve other partners (ie Nature Foundation of South Australia).
 - 2019 Management Guidelines: Renmark Environmental Watering Committee Member Mike Harper commissioned provide detailed reports to amalgamate into a final iteration.

- Environmental Watering Monitoring Operational Plan: Guiding document for environmental watering operations and monitoring, designed, written and actioned by Renmark Paringa Council Environmental Officer Myles Fauser.
- Initial results: Namoi St Renmark North – 36ml of water delivered between April to June 2019, comparison video was shown of drone footage from 20 March 2019 to 2 May 2019. Results show the total water bird species increased, in addition to frog sitings. All sites with monitoring /evaluation.
- Full documentation of watering schedules / drying cycles produced & available
- Excellent examples of documented, provable environmental gains are in place for ongoing monitoring

We paused the meeting agenda (10:29am) to welcome Emma Bradbury, CEO MDA – via Zoom video link.

(6.0) Emma Bradbury, CEO MDA

- Internal updates:
 - Engaged 3 new staff within the Executive Team.
 - Finalising funding agreements with the Federal Departments
 - Basin Community Leadership Program – we were asked if there been any expression of interest from members in participation.
 - **Action:** Chair to distribute information and criteria on the program & ask for potential applicants from our region/s.
 - MDA will hold a board meeting at the ALGA NGA scheduled for 19 June 2019, in Canberra. The MDA will also have an exhibit / stall at the National LGA Meeting.
 - Connecting Catchments and Communities - From Menindee to the Murray Mouth session in Renmark was very well received. Positive feedback on the high level of speakers - in addition to the level of engagement and expertise from the audience. A session to be scheduled for Region 6 in the near future.
- Questions to CEO:
 - Where are we at in terms of motions?
 - Emma explain all motions can be found on the MDA website <https://www.mda.asn.au/annual-conference/conference-resolutions.aspx>
 - What is the mood across the MDA in terms of Local Government? How is the community's travelling with water allocations?
 - Emma said she has seen a significant shift since the State and Federal Elections, since the Federal Election, it seems there are a lot more constructive approaches – starting to regroup. More collaborative than in recent years.
 - Has Emma heard of Community/Industry groups, where they look into the adaption in climates to grow sustainable agricultural?
 - Region 6 is doing a bit of work in this area, in addition to what MDA (as a whole) may consider. Emma hasn't heard too much about this, but this doesn't necessarily mean that no one is looking into.
- Almond Board Australia recent media release, MDA in support. The suggestion was raised as part of the development approval for almond development Local Government could play the role in ensuring permanent water had to be included. Discussion: Perhaps water availability isn't the problem but water delivery is.

- 5.2 Correspondence to Members – (since Meeting of 25th March 2019):
- 28/3 March 25th Meeting Minutes
 - 15/4 Region 5 Update – MDA L’ship / Allocations / MDA & Fed Budget
 - 6/5 Region5 Update – Industry Reps / Water Trading
 - 7/5 Water Buybacks
 - 10/5 Request for questions for Industry Reps
 - 20/5 Floodplain Harvesting Input
- 5.3 Membership
- 100% - We warmly welcome Yvonne Smith (DC KEM), previously been with Region 6.
- 5.4 Leadership
- Planning beyond 2020, we need to consider the notion of returning to a rotation the Chair, Region 5.

6. MDA CEO / NATIONAL AGM

- 6.1 CEO, Emma Bradbury via Zoom Video Conference – as noted in earlier notes.
- 10:35am Zoom Link
 - Follow Up issues for MDA Board consideration

7. PLANNING & COORDINATION

- 7.1 Frequency / Location / Timing of Region 5 Meetings
- Current Schedule:
 - Mid Murray – Morgan – 9th September, 2019
 - Discussion re voting on MDA National AGM / Motions
 - Mayor Martinson re Basin Communities Committee in collaboration with Monique White – Engagement Officer
 - Information re Carp Project.
 - {Panel of Industry Representatives re managing low water allocations & how industry is planning forward – postponed to a later date.}
 - National AGM – Toowoomba – 22nd to 24th October, 2019
 - Karoonda East Murray – 9th December, 2019 tbc
 - Renmark Paringa – 16th March, 2020 – Region 5 AGM
 - Future Topics / Guest Speakers:
 - Guest Speakers / Combined Sessions
 - Meetings / links with
 - **Region 6 – 26th July @ Goolwa** – further information available soon
 - SA Regions Combined – may be linked with Region 6 meeting – further information soon.
 - Fisheries & PIRSA
 - CEWO – Michelle Campbell - schedule
 - Mike Young
 - ?
- 7.3 Future MDA Dates:
- Region 4 Sessions in Wentworth – 2019 – to be finalised
 - Potential Canberra based AGM in 2020 – to be finalised

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Communication:
Nil

8.5 Any Other General Business
Nil

9. NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday, 9th September, 2019
Time: 9:30 for 10am
Location: Morgan Council Chambers

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

10. CLOSE: 11.45 am

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
Loxton Waikerie Council for hosting this meeting of Region 5*