



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 – Annual General Meeting

Renmark Paringa Council Chambers

Monday, 16th March, 2020

Meeting commenced at 10:04am:

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • Cr Peter Raison | Mid Murray Council |
| • Cr Jeff Hall | Mid Murray Council |
| • Cr Andrew Kassebaum | Berri Barmera Council |
| • Malcolm Wilksch | Berri Barmera Private Member |
| • Cr Peter Walker | Loxton Waikerie Council |
| • Cr Allan Maddocks | Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Cr Margaret Howie | Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Mayor, Neil Martinson | Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Cr Peter Hunter | Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Ashleigh Baker | EA - Renmark Paringa Council |
| • Emma Bradbury | CEO, MDA via Zoom Online Conference |
| • Melissa Rebbeck (12 noon) | Region 6 Chair re Lock Zero |
| • James John | Renmark Irrigation Trust |
| • Kate Strachan | Renmark Irrigation Trust |
| • Megan Taylor | Renmark Irrigation Trust |
| • Myles Fauser | Renmark Paringa Council & Renmark Irrigation Trust |

1.2 Apologies:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| • Cr Kym Webber | Loxton Waikerie Council |
| • Iann Mann | Mid Murray Private Member |
| • Cr Mike Fuller | Berri Barmera Council |
| • Yvonne Smith | District Council of Karoonda East Murray |

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declaration – Material / Actual / Perceived

Nil

2. WELCOME

All members and guest speakers James, Kate and Megan from Renmark Irrigation Trust (RIT) were welcomed to our March Meeting.

10:05am - We paused proceedings for an update from Emma Bradbury, CEO of the Murray Darling Association via 'Zoom' Video Link.

- (6.0) Emma Bradbury, CEO MDA
- Attended the strategic planning workshop and the outcomes formed an exciting work plan for the next 12 months. Three key priorities that emerged :
 - Development of regions
 - Membership and products
 - Centre of Excellence
 - Basin in Communities Leadership Program:
 - The program has now be set
 - Participants will complete a water literacy module
 - Will commence with pre study online then the two day workshop
 - Nine months of engagement and mentoring
 - Employed a training facilitator
 - More information is available on the MDA website
 - Alexandria course is full, but still available spots in Loxton. Warren has also had a strong take up.
 - A producer and a production team have been engaged.
 - One basin and CRC roadshow involvement aligns with MDA and will be interested in supporting as it develops.
 - Mayor Martinson presented Peter Hunter with a plaque and thanked Peter for all his work he has done for the MDA.
 - Emma also thanked Peter for his work at board level and the contribution and commitment Peter has made to Region 5.
 - Emma welcomed Peter Raison to the board as the new Region 5 Chair.

10:26am - We paused proceedings for presentations from the Renmark Irrigation Trust

Water Stewardship:

James John (Legal and Project Manager) and Kate Strahn (Board Member)

- The catalyst to the water stewardship was the millennial drought.
- Is an international standard for good water stewardship.
- Global leadership from companies such as Apple who are looking to achieve gold standard.
- RIT have translated their own certification to their customers who can benefit when going to market.
- RIT were award gold certification in 2018, the platinum in 2020 which is the highest available level.
- RIT are happy to assist and knowledge share if Council wish to pursue.
- Kate Board Member highlighted that from the board's perspective it has been a positive for the community and had value for their exporters
- Cost for Local Government would be difficult to determine as it depends on organisational type / size. No precedent, as no council has previously entered.
- James is happy to be contacted if members have further questions, email address jjohn@rit.org.au.

Proposed Amendments to Carry Over Policy:

Megan Taylor (Water and Administration Manager)

- Presentation on the current water policy and the carry over entitlements.
- Old policy discouraged good water management.
- The RIT wrote to the Minister to highlight their concerns when the policy was out for consultation.
- New policy stipulates water carryover will roll rather than being completely lost
- Priorities to 100% allocations
- Storage for carryover water is very important

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/S

Moved: Cr Andrew Kassebaum

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of MDA Region 5 held in Berri, on the 25th March, 2019 are a true & accurate record of the meeting.

Seconded: Cr Margaret Howie

Agreed

'Summary Minutes' of the ordinary meeting of MDA Region 5 held in Karoonda, on the 9th December, 2019 were included within distribution of the Agenda.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 2019 Annual General Meeting

Nil

4.2 2019 December Region 5 Meeting

Nil

5. MDA Region 5 Update

5.1 Correspondence to Members – Summary list circulated

5.2 Region 5 Annual General Meeting

Cr Peter Hunter read the chairperson's report, highlighting his involvement with the role over the past 4 years and expressed how there has been significant growth within MDA – both internally & with their influence on the national policy agenda. He wished the Association, Region 5 and Cr Peter Raison all the best.

Moved: Cr Peter Hunter

That the Chairperson's Report be received

Seconded: Cr Margaret Howie

Agreed

Moved: Cr Andrew Kassabaum

That Mid Murray Council agrees to provide support for the role of Chairperson, Region 5, and that Cr Raison be the Chair on their behalf.

Seconded: Cr Margaret Howie

Agreed

After consultation with Cr Raison, Cr Peter Hunter resumed as 'Acting' Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The below members to be formally endorsed at the next meeting, subject to any changes within individual councils.

- Council Representatives (for confirmation):
 - Berri Barmera: Cr Kassebaum / Cr Fuller – Voting Delegate / Proxy
 - Loxton Waikerie: Cr Walker / Cr Webber – Voting Delegate / Proxy
 - Mid Murray: Cr Raison Cr Hassett /– Voting Delegate / Proxy
 - Karoonda East Murray: Cr Smith / Cr tba / Voting Delegate / Proxy
 - Renmark Paringa: Cr Howie / Cr Maddocks- Voting Delegate / Proxy

Private Members:

- Ian Mann OAM
- Malcolm Wilksch

6. MDA CEO / NATIONAL AGM

- 6.1.1 MDA National Conference - Shepparton, Victoria – 12th August. *There have been changes with the date & now with Coronavirus implications may need to be deferred.*
- 6.1.2 Next board meeting for further clarity / updates - Monday, 23rd March.

6.2 Basin Communities Leadership Program –

- Invitations & Information available now
 - SA Dates:
 - Session 1 – Lower Lakes – 26th to 27th May - **Full**
 - **Session 2 – Loxton – 28th to 29th May**
- Detailed Program – Online Bookings – Prereading – sessions & follow up
- This program will be circulated to High Schools

6.3 Other items from CEO Presentation, earlier in the meeting:

Nil

7. PLANNING & COORDINATION

- 7.1 Frequency / Location / Timing of Region 5 Meetings to be confirmed at the June Meeting.
 - **Members to check council calendars / commitments.**
 - **Discussion re option of online attendance as part of the June Meeting**
 - **Zoom as potential platform – Licence through MDA (as per our current Region 5 Meetings (ie Emma) or utilise a local council software Licence.**
 - **Members to check facilities available @ their meeting venues / home / workplace.**
 - Current Pattern - second Monday – every 3 months:
 - **Berri / Barmera – 1st June 2020 - Confirmed**
 - 8th June – LWE / 15th June – ALGA Conference in Canberra
 - Preparation for MDA AGM Motions / support
 - Shepparton MDA AGM – TBC – July / August?
 - Loxton / Waikerie – 14th September 2020
 - Mid Murray – 14th December 2020
 - Karoonda East Murray – 8th March 2021
 - Renmark Paringa – 14th June 2021
 - Topics / Guest Speakers:
 - CEO Phone Link for meetings
 - Guest Speakers – Topic/s:
 - Meetings / links with Region 6
 - Fisheries & PIRSA
 - Carp Update/s
 - Mike Young
 - Jarrod Eaton & DEW
 - MDBA Representative – Monique White – **schedule**
 - CEWO – **schedule**

NB

- Information re Lock Zero (MDA Position paper) had been sent to all members prior to the meeting.
- Additional advice was also tabled for members, prior to Melissa's Input.
- A short 'round the table' discussion preceded the 'Zoom' link.

We paused proceedings (12:00pm) for an update regarding Lock Zero from Melissa Rebbeck, Region 6 Chair MDA, via 'Zoom' Video Link.

- Concerns on the removal of barrages and implementation of lock zero.
- Further research is being done currently which hopefully will confirm freshwater status of lakes for 99%, historically.
- Ecology the number one concern if this was to go ahead.
- NSW not taking full reasonability on their actions and diverting other regions to do more.
- SA the most efficient in water delivery.
- Concerns re the size & number of dams still active & numerous very inefficient methods for water delivery across the basin
- Keep advocating for the MDA plan.
- Climate change: potential for the next drought to be worse – we need to be prepared.
- Need to look at soil carbon increase & water holding capacity within the soil, rather than only looking at traditional water solutions.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

9. NEXT MEETING

Date: 1st June 2020
Time: 9:30 for 10am
Location: Berri Barmera Council Chambers

Room Booking / Morning Tea / Set Up & Preparation Responsibilities: Cr Andrew Kassebaum

10. CLOSE 12:15pm

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