



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary Meeting of Region 6
24 February 2023
10:30 am – 1 pm

MINUTES – February 2023

1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2. ATTENDANCE

2.1. Membership as tabled in attachment 1

2.2. RSVP (no less than 1/3 of Member Councils for a quorum (16.6(d) MDA Constitution 2019)

Cr Melissa Rebbeck (Outgoing Chair)	
Cr Airlie Keen	Rural City of Murray Bridge
GM Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Mayor Wayne Thorley	Rural City of Murray Bridge
CEO Bridget Mather	Coorong District Council (Proxy)
Warren Jacobs (Virtual attendance)	Individual Member
Cr Jonathon Pietzsch	Coorong District Council
Cr Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District Council
Kathy Hayter (proxy)	City of Victor Harbour

2.3. Guests

Mark Lamb	CEO MDA
Tim Phillips (Virtual attendance)	MDA Communications and Engagement Officer
Stephan Packer	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Carol Muzyk	Coordinator MDA Region 6
Monique White (Virtual attendance)	Murray Darling Authority
Kate Bartlett (Virtual attendance)	Murray Darling Authority
Richard Mintern (Virtual attendance)	CEWO
Mayor Paul Simmons	Coorong District Council

2.4. Apologies

CEO Nigel Morris	Alexandrina Council
Cr Milli Livingstone	Alexandrina Council
Greg Burns	OIGWC
Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council
Colin Grundy	Individual Member
Adrian Pederick	Individual Member
Graham Camac	Individual Member
Phillip Moore	Life Member
Barry Featherstone	Life Member
Frank Tuckwell	Life Member (TBC)

2.5. Declarations

NIL

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION

That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 6 - Ordinary Meeting held 13 January 2023 be approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. REPORTS

- 4.1 Former Chair Melissa Rebbeck tabled and spoke to her report at the AGM. (Report Attached)
- Meeting dates to be amended to reflect 1 per quarter.
 - Meetings to be shared between member Councils.
 - Constitution – advised a motion was put at previous MDA AGM that the Chair stays as Board Chair until after the MDA AGM. Discussion pertaining to previous issues. A proxy to be nominated for the Chair if they no longer want to be a member. Cr Keen proposed that the Constitution be discussed and reviewed at the next Executive Meeting.
 - At the last MDA Board Meeting it was discussed that Mayor Craig Davies is the Vice President. This needs to be resolved as there are two southern Vice Presidents. There will be an election for President and Vice President in April. A Chair or Vice Chair needs to be nominated in April. Melissa would like to nominate Cr Andrew Kassebaum.
 - Performance Review of MDA CEO was recently undertaken. Regional membership needs to have ongoing input the KPI's. A process needs to be put in place to formalise the Review by the Board. Mark Lamb responded by providing an overview as to how the recent review was undertaken.
 - Melissa also recognised the great work Mark Lamb has done.

MOTION

Ordinary Meetings to be rotated through member Council. Next meeting to be held at Coorong District Council

Cr Keen/Cr Qualmann - CARRIED

ACTION

Calendar of Events to be amended to reflect Ordinary Meeting venues are rotated. Next meeting Coorong District Council.

MOTION

Constitutional updates that have been discussed, and any other updates, are considered at the National Board Meeting in readiness for approval at the September AGM

Melissa Rebbeck/Mayor Thorley - CARRIED

ACTION

MDA CEO to Review Constitution and circulate proposed Amendments for Comment.
MDA CEO to check Melissa Rebbeck remains an ex officio.
Executive to review and discuss Constitution at the next Executive Meeting.

MOTION

Offline Executive meeting be convened to nominate for Vice President and President

Melissa Rebbeck/Mayor Thorley - CARRIED

ACTION

Tim Phillips to forward election process to Cr Keen so a nomination for the Chair can be forwarded in time for the 3rd April MDBA Board Meeting

MOTION

Region 6 write to the Board Executive to seek clarity Governance Structures relating to Performance Review of the CEO and his Key Performance Indicators and ensure the Chairman's Reports are received.

Mayor Thorley/Cr Qualmann - CARRIED

ACTION

MDA CEO to provide Performance Review Report and KPIs for circulation to all members

- 4.2 MDA CEO Mark Lamb
- Report tabled.
 - Consolidating amendments to the Constitution would be a good idea as there is a fee imposed to amend the Constitution.
 - Expressed appreciation to the RCMB regarding the planning of the 2023 AGM and Conference.
 - Water Symposium in Sydney occurred last week. Was Chaired by Professor Mike Young. Run by Legalwise. Mark presented the Motions and has received some feedback about the Motions that have been moved by the MDA Regions.
- 4.3 Murray Darling Basin Authority – Kate Bartlett/Monique White
- Monique White presented on behalf of the Murray Darling Basin Authority
 - MDBA role to recover water under the Basin Plan.
 - Works towards the targeted water recovery under the Bridging the Gap has commended. 49.3GL to be recovered.
 - NSW have submitted all Water Resource Plans for assessment.
 - Murray Darling Water for the Environment Research Program have posted some of their work on the MDBA website. Directed all members to look at the page.
 - Basin Plan Report Card was released last week.
 - Basin Community Committee meeting will be held in Murray Bridge next week.
 - Reflections Conference in Narrabri in June.
 - SA Community Forum will be run in late March/early April to coincide with school holidays.
 - Next round of Nominations for the Basin Community Committee will be called soon.

QUESTIONS:

Bridget Mather asked if any Council involvement is required.

Cr Keen asked more information about the Basin Community Committee. Who are members?

Cr Keen enquired about the fish kill. Has the MDBA had any conversations about the fish kills?

ANSWERS:

Monique responded no involvement is required.

Monique answered Warren Jacob is involved in a number of Committees. Neil Martinson (ex-Mayor of Renmark) is also involved. Many farmers and community members from around the Basin.

MDBA staff are working with the Department. There have been minimal river fish kills. Breeding events have been favourable for native fish.

- 4.4 Commonwealth Environment Water Office – Richard Mintern
- Starting to introduce flows to maintain a continued fresh water down the system and maintain fish passage.
 - PIRSA are conducting an electro-fishing demonstration next Thursday night in Renmark. Following night a forum on Crayfish and Yabbies will be conducted.
 - MP Tanya Plibersek has announced a Water Purchasing Framework.
 - Starting Environmental Water Planning for next year. Focussing on maintaining levels in wetlands for bird habitats.
- 4.5 Office of Inspector General Water Compliance – Greg Burns
Apology received
- 4.6 Members Updates
Mayor Thorley
- Flood recovery is a challenge. As an asset manager we need to seek improvement and repair of all assets.
 - Community recovery is not well defined and requires clarity.
 - Tourism in the area increased over the flood event as people were interested in seeing the event.
 - Has been positive for the environment

Bridget Mather

- Recovery is well underway. Recovery is required around ensuring businesses in Meningie are able access grants and support to recover.

Cr Qualmann

- Has toured around the Coorong area and Blanchetown. Noted infrastructure affected particularly DPTI infrastructure. Still waiting for the Ferry at Wellington to become operational. Should be operational next week.

Heather Barclay

- Attended the Region 7 meeting.
- RCMB were well prepared for the flood.
- Community information was strong. Various community meetings have been undertaken including 500 people attending a Town Hall meeting. 200 people attended online.
- 58km of roads in RCMB, 250km in Mid Murray and 2500 shacks in Mid Murray have been damaged.
- Heather will present on the recovery at the next Ordinary meeting
- No notice has been given on how Council can access Government Recovery Funds

Melissa Rebbeck

- Attended the Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mallee meeting. Talks were about areas that have not seen water for some time and the positive outcomes for the environment.
- There are discussions starting to stop water from being released from the Barrages in preparation for a drier conditions imate under Climate Change.
- Great Heather attended the Region 7.
- 200km of dead carp and brim along beaches. This has affected tourisms as a result of odors. Crustaceans have been affected.

Kathy Hayter

- Victor Harbour has issued with dead fish and have been working with PIRSA. Loss of amenity on beaches and in coastal waters is an issue. There were conflicts between PIRSA and DEW regarding removing fish via a grader as sand could not be removed. Initially PIRSA were going to cart the fish away and sent for composting. However the sand content made this not an option. Staff reverted to racking the fish and deep buried them. Current process is to now let the fish remain on the beach and naturally decompose.

ACTION

Heather Barclay to present at the next Ordinary Meeting on the recovery in RCMB.

4.7 2023 Conference and AGM Planning – Mark Lamb/Carol Muzyk

Mark Lamb provided

- Planning for the 2023 AGM and Conference is well underway with the assistance of the RCMB.
- Haven't landed on a physical location at this stage. Options are Town Hall or the Bridgeport Hotel.
- Cocktail Reception will likely be at the Regional Rowing Centre.
- Study Tour will be via the Barrages.
- Gala Dinner options most likely be the Bridgeport. Other venues were considered e.g. Racing Club and Monarto Zoo however logistics are not as favourable as the Bridgeport.
- Number are yet unknown. Not having a regional Airport is a challenge. Mini bus may be organised to transport delegates from Adelaide Airport.
- Speakers are currently being organised

Carol Muzyk

- Provided she has conversed with Colin Grundy to access his property for the study tour.
- Also highlighted the date for ticket sales. Date has yet to be set, however will be a couple of months earlier. Carol also provided planning group are meeting fortnightly.

Melissa Rebbeck offered to speak on the tour bus and provided names of First Nations people to also talk.

QUESTIONS

Cr Keen sought clarification that the Gala Dinner would be Wednesday Night?

Cr Keen asked who the Ministers that will be attending to speak are.

Melissa Rebbeck inquired that expert speak around Motions should be a focus and other speakers from around the region to talk about local projects. How are you harnessing the approach to finding speakers?

Cr Keen reflected on the Minister Speakers from the last AGM. Will there be an opportunity for shadow ministers and other political parties to attend as speaker.

Mayor Thorley provided names of other potential speakers e.g. Thomas Foods, Cooper Family from Narrung.

ANSWERS

Gala dinner is Wednesday night

MP Tanya Plibersek and MP Susan Close have been approached. Professor Mike Young has been approached. Various other academics will also be approached.

Mark Lamb is putting together a list of speakers to be discussed at the next Board meeting. Focus is also on Panel Speakers.

Mark Lamb provided details on previous selection of political speakers. Intent is to provide the opportunity to all parties.

Mark Lamb provided there have been suggestions for many local speakers.

MOTION

All Reports to be accepted on Block

Mayor Thorley/Cr Pietzsch/CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1. Correspondence Out

5.1.1. Letter to Frank Tuckwell – Nomination for Life Membership

Cr Qualmann asked if Frank Tuckwell is a private member.

Melissa Rebbeck advised he is a private member.

Cr Keen noted the Constitution needs to be referred to as to the process of Life Membership. This to be added to the Agenda of the Executive Meeting.

5.2. Correspondence In

5.2.1. Email from Tatiara District Council – Council delegate

Cr Pietzsch provided that a motion had been passed at the Tatiara District Council to invite Region 6 representative to present at the Council. Melissa Rebbeck provided she has previously provided advocacy to Tatiara District Council or assist with the content of the presentation. Executive Committee to discuss at next meeting.

5.2.2. Email from Southern Mallee District Council – Council delegate

Carol Muzyk provided she has been in conversation with Southern Mallee Council. Council are having by-elections in March and will provide a response in April.

Mayor Thorley provided the link of Southern Mallee to the Basin.

MOTION

All correspondence to be accepted

Heather Barclay/Mayor Thorley - CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 Actions from Ordinary Meeting

- Updated as necessary

7.2 Actions from Executive Committee Meeting

- Noted as presented

Other Business:

- Melissa Rebbeck provided Code of Conduct Process that needs to be updated in the Constitution.
- Tim Phillips will update the website to indicate which Councils are financial members.

- Cr Keen suggested Other Business be added as a separate Agenda Item.
- Melissa Rebbeck suggested all meetings be added to all member Calendars as well as the Conference and AGM.
- Carol Muzyk requested a decision be made as to where meeting venues will be hosted.
- Mark Lamb offered Placeholders will be placed for all 2023 AGM and Conference events for all members.

7. MURRAY RIVER FLOODING

7.1 Update on Council Flood Issues

Covered under Member Reports

7.2 Community Support

Covered under Member Reports

Mayor Thorley provided State Government has been strong for Community Support. Clarity is required on what Federal Government support is available

Mark Lamb provided funding and grants have been explored for conferencing/tourism.

Cr Keen asked if the MDA intends to write to State and Federal Government for support.

8. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar of Events was noted.

9. NEXT MEETING

Executive Meeting 14 April

Ordinary Meeting 12 May

CLOSE 12.52pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks to the Rural City of Murray Bridge for its support in hosting this Ordinary meeting and video conference of Region 6.

Murray Darling Association Inc.

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