



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 6 Ordinary Meeting - Agenda

463 High Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

MINUTES

Date:

28th of June 2019

10.07am – 2.27pm

Venue

Rural City of Murray Bridge – Council Chambers
2 Seventh Street, MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

Guest Speakers :

Deana Mildren Regional Engagement Officer, Lower Murray Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Monique White Assistant Director, Engagement Partnerships, Engagement and Strategic Policy
Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Chair: Councillor Melissa Rebbeck

Executive Officer: Tracey Strugnell, Coorong District Council

Meeting Opened: 10.07am

1 WELCOME & WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Mayor Brenton Lewis, Rural City of Murray Bridge

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillor Vern Leng, Councillor Brenton Qualmann (Coorong District Council), Shen Mann – proxy for Glenn Rappensberg CEO, Councillor Melissa Rebbeck - Chair , Councillor Michael Scott (Alexandrina Council), Julie Barrie, Bruce Brooks (Private Members) Mayor Brenton Lewis (Rural City of Murray Bridge).

Non Voting Members:

Tracey Strugnell – proxy to the CEO, Coorong District Council.

Guests: Ian Mann, Geoff Gallasch, Peter Smith.

Apologies:

Heather Barclay, Malcolm Downie (Rural City of Murray Bridge), Glenn Rappensberg, (Alexandrina Council), Frank Tuckwell, Keith Loeser (Private Members), David Mosel (Coorong District Council).

3. HOUSEKEEPING

3.1 Welcome to the meeting

3.2 Housekeeping: safety, toilets and catering.

4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

5. **MINUTES**

Minute check of the previous Ordinary Meetings held on April 5th 2019

Minutes were approved as true and correct.

Moved: Councillor Brenton Lewis, Seconded: Councillor Vern Leng. Carried.

Julie Barrie acknowledged the passing of Councillor Steven Wilkinson of Mid Murray Council.

It was moved that a letter of condolence be sent to his family.

Moved: Julie Barrie. Seconded: Brenton Qualmann.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 **INCOMING**

- **Statement of Intent** – Tracey Strugnell resigning from Executive Officer role

Shen Mann explained that there was a discussion at the Executive Meeting of calling the Executive Officer as an external position as 0.5 Full Time Equivalent Level 6. Mayor Brenton Lewis expressed that 6 months lead time is too long to wait for this to happen. Alexandrina Council will provide an Interim Executive Officer to carry out the role in the intervening period.

- **Notification of Murray Darling Association AGM – 23rd of October 2019**
Motions for the AGM – 23rd October 2019 must be in by the **21st August, 2019**

Covered under item 9.3.

- **Coorong District Council Appointment of proxy to the CEO – Tracey Strugnell, to Region 6 Murray Darling Association**
- **Response from Department of Agriculture and Water Resources 15th May 2019 & Original Letter to Minister Littleproud - MDB Plan Royal Commission MDB R6 14th April 2019**

Response from Minister Littleproud. No response from Minister Speirs at this stage.

Mayor Brenton Lewis reported on a meeting he attended in Murray Bridge prior to the Federal Election. He reported that Minister Littleproud expressed that the Murray Darling Basin Plan should be delivered on time and in full.

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck expressed concern that there is a broad expectation that agricultural production should double in Australia, but that water policy is not keeping pace with this message.

Bruce Brooks commented on the climate change comments in the letter received from Minister Littleproud's Department in regard to the need for further research in this area. Councillor Melissa Rebbeck will raise this at the next Murray Darling Association Meeting.

- **River Lakes & Coorong Action Group AGM** Sunday 2nd June 2019
Councillor Vern Leng and Peter Smith reported that this was a good meeting, with interesting speakers. There were around 100 in attendance.
- **South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement** 15 May 2019
<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation-and-carryover/water-allocations-and-announcements>
- **Coorong Environmental Trust Bill 2019**
https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/B/CURRENT/COORONG%20ENVIRONMENTAL%20TRUST%20BILL%202019_HON%20TAMMY%20FRANKS%20MLC.aspx
- **Barrages Fact Sheet Murray Darling Basin Authority Fact Sheet**
<https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/brochure/fact-sheet-all-about-barrages>

6.2 OUTGOING

Thankyou letters were sent to Mayor Neville Jaensch, Mayor Keith Parkes, past Region 6 Chair Barry Featherstone, Julie Barrie, and Councillor Vern Leng, thanking for them for their hard work on previous terms of Region 6.

Invitation to South Australian Region Chairs to Inter Regional meeting on 9th of August. Now cancelled and tentatively rescheduled for October 2nd 2019 to be held in LGA House or Rural City of Murray Bridge.

This change was made due to the thought that ideas may come out of the Group Symposium. Emma Bradbury had expressed concern that this may lead to Motions being put up from South Australia rather than individual Regions. Julie Barrie said that the value of the Inter Regional Meetings was in sharing ideas and understanding prior to the MDA AGM.

Shen Mann suggested that we ask another Region be asked to organise this meeting. This should not always be the responsibility of Region 6.

6.3 NEWS / INFORMATION OF NOTE

News Update 17th of June

See tabled Stock Journal article re; ACCC inquiry into water trading in the Southern Basin & independent panel into soci-economic impacts of water reform

Tracey Strugnell commented on the Stock Journal article on the 13th of June in regard to the Federal Government commitment to;

- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission enquiry into water trading in the Southern Basin,
- Independent Panel into the soci-economic impacts of water reform.

Mayor Brenton Lewis commented that provision of this news information had been valuable. Seven of the eight voting members expressed that provision of this information has been useful.

News Update 21st of May

ANAO Audit into the procurement of strategic water entitlements: looking at the design of the current policy for water buy-backs, and whether its implementation has been effective

Emma Bradbury - MDA 9th of May 2019

South East Drainage and Wetlands Strategy: Draft for Comment

Natural Resources South East – May 2019

Littleproud flags possible government intervention in southern water market ahead of ACCC inquiry ABC Rural Thursday 30th 2019

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-05-30/new-water-minister-ready-for-accq-inquiry/11161730>

Project Coorong bringing new life to a natural icon

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/coorong/rescue-package>

Our Coorong –Our Coast

https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/southeast/projects/our-current-projects/Our_Coorong_Our_Coast

Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment

Australian Government – Productivity Report Link received 13th April 2019

<https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/basin-plan/draft>

7. BUSINESS ARISING

Ordinary Meetings Action List

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck guided the group through Action List.

Tracey Strugnell sought permission to delete the completed items highlighted in yellow.

Moved: Councillor Vern Leng. Seconded: Julie Barrie.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Murray Darling Association CEO's Report – via phone conference

Emma Bradbury

Murray Darling Association Minutes can be accessed at

<https://www.mda.asn.au/about-us/board-meetings.aspx>

The National Farmers Federation (NFF) has mapped out a plan to greatly improve farm output. We need to consider what this means in terms of water use, land management, and resources availability. Emma has met with the CEO of the NFF to express that the MDA should be part of this conversation to assist with making better informed decisions.

Mayor Brenton Lewis commented on the NFF policy, the strategy to continue to increase the population of Australia, and the need for Local Governments to continue to drive growth - is a challenging space to drive improved water resource policy.

The MDA Executive are working toward the AGM in Toowoomba.

The second Connecting Catchments and Communities event will be held in Euston focussing on constraints.

This event will cover;

- The Tooleybuc Sustainable Growth Plan,
- Barmah Choke,
- Regional growth in the water market.

This event has strong support from agencies and water brokers.

Emma Bradbury explained that the MDA has several new staff members in place, improving the capacity to deliver good work.

Emma Bradbury suggested that Region 6 create an Action to pursue the development of knowledge on nutrient harvesting and removal from water sources.

Emma Bradbury explained that Mayor Brenton Lewis had been appointed to the Murray Darling Association Strategic Advisory Group. It is not a decision making Committee but an advisory one. Peter Bond of the MRLGA was the South Australian representative. Emma Bradbury recommended to the MDA Board that Mayor Brenton Lewis be appointed to this role. The Terms of Reference for this group are available on the MDA website.

Emma Bradbury passed on her thanks to the Rural City of Murray Bridge for taking on this role on the Strategic Advisory Group.

Mayor Brenton Lewis asked Emma Bradbury whether Carp could be part of the discussions at the MDA AGM. Emma Bradbury discussed the potential funding sources that may be forthcoming in regard to Carp Management.

Emma Bradbury looks forward to seeing the members of Region 6 at the Groups Symposium.

Councillor Michael Scott asked Emma Bradbury about the meeting with the incoming NSW Water Minister Melinda Pavey, held very soon after she assumed the role after the NSW State Election.

A discussion ensued about compliance, economic development, and resource management.

Councillor Michael Scott confirmed with Emma Bradbury that the MDA does not have a seat on the MDBA Board. There are four Local Government representatives as individuals on the Basin Communities Committee of the MDBA.

The MDA and MDBA have recently extended their Memorandum of Understanding for another five years, and have included proactive Actions such as annual meetings to establish actions for both bodies to report against.

8.2 Chair's Report

Executive Group Meeting Minutes and Action Sheet

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck discussed the main points out of the Murray Darling Association Board Meeting Minutes, and Region 6 Executive Group Minutes and Action Sheet.

8.3 Executive Officer Report

Tracey Strugnell thanked Region 6 for the opportunity to carry out the Executive Officer role. She is

moving on to focus on other project areas but will for the time being remain proxy to the Coorong District Council CEO on Region 6.

The following points were made in the Executive Officer report;

- Keeping track of political shifts and media across the Murray Darling Basin since October 2018 has been interesting and challenging.
- The funding invested by the three Council's should be used as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- If Actions are made in Ordinary or Executive Meetings ensure that they are committed to or the time spent by the Executive Officer, and this resources is wasted.
- The Executive Officer position description, governance, reporting and approvals processes (media, letters etc) needs to be clarified and improved to give future officers in this role the confidence to carry out this role with maximum effectiveness.
- The relationship between the Councils, and the spread of decision making across the member Councils and private members needs to be balanced.
- The relationship between the Region 6 Executive Officer role and governance and MDA Governance and Constitution needs to be clarified and improved to give future Executive Officers the confidence to carry out this role with maximum effectiveness, and to clarify their working relationship with the Murray Darling Association.

Tracey Strugnell asked the group to continue to support Councillor Melissa Rebbeck in her role as Region 6 Chair and the incoming Interim Executive Officer.

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck and Julie Barrie formally thanked Tracey Strungell in her role as Executive Officer. Moved: Julie Barrie. Seconded: Vern Leng.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Recent Events

Those in attendance to report back

River Lakes & Coorong Action Group AGM	Milang - Sunday 2nd June 2019
Councillor Vern Leng and Peter Smith reported that this was a good meeting, with interesting speakers. There were around 100 in attendance.	

9.2 The Post Federal Election Murray Darling Basin Space

At the Commonwealth level keep an eye out for;

- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission into water trading in the Southern Basin,
- Independent Panel into the socio-economic impacts of water reform.

9.3 Working toward the Murray Darling Association 75th Jubilee National Conference and AGM in Toowoomba – October 22-24, 2019

Shen Mann

<https://www.mda.asn.au/annual-conference/2019-toowoomba.aspx>

Motions for considerations are being written up and sent around by Shen Mann. All Region 6 Members need to read this document, consider and respond.

This ideas currently include;

- Potential motions raised by Julie Barrie in earlier meetings in regard to the importance of continuity when a Chair is not re-elected to Local Government.
- A motion around managemnet of nutrient load.
- A motion around climate change.
- A motion around socio economic neutrality vs river health, using innovative techniques to increase productivity without increased water use.
- Investment in alternate water supply techniques to reduce River Murray water use and reliance.
- How are we going to continually grow our population without impacting adversely on the Murray Darling Basin?

Shen Mann suggested that this be sent around to members via a Google Docs link to provide your comments via an active link. If you are not comfortable with this please speak to another member

Who will attend the Toowoomba Murray Darling Association National Conference and AGM?

Region 6 will fund the Chair and Executive Officer to attend.

At this stage Glenn Rappensberg, Councillor Melissa Rebbeck, Councillor Michael Scott, are attending. Julie Barrie is aiming to attend.

9.4 Region 6 Groups Symposium Planning – 26th of July

Cr Melissa Rebbeck

Fleurieu Function Centre booked, fee \$900.

Funding:

NRM Volunteer Grant won for \$1000 to contribute toward event

Alexandrina Council Grant for \$1000 funding contribution

\$1000 funding offered from Rural City of Murray Bridge

Alexandrina Council to invoice Coorong District Council for \$1000 toward the Groups Symposium event. Attention: Nat Traeger.

Allocate activities to assist in event delivery.

Alexandrina Council to coordinate the catering and the facilitator.

Invite the other South Australian Regions to the Symposium to spark conversation.

Groups list circulated for any additions.

Monique White of the Murray Darling Association confirmed that Brett Williams Murray Darling Basin Authority Director has been approached to speak.

Julie Barrie moved to approve the Group Symposium Program. Seconded by Mayor Brenton Lewis.

Julie Barrie moved to approve the invitation letters to the Ministers. Seconded by Mayor Brenton Lewis.

Shen Mann agreed to send out the invitations with the survey.

9.5 Schedule of Potential Guest Speakers and Tours for Region 6 Ordinary Meetings

Things are moving fast in the MDB space. Has this changed what you want to hear about or see?

Potential Future Speakers

- Murray Darling Basin Authority Climate Change Officer
- Steve Barnett, Senior Hydrogeologist – DEWNR, on how the regional groundwater system/hydrology and the River, Lakes and Coorong inter-relate
- Salinity Management
- Goyder re alternative water sources for urban areas i.e. desal & recycled
- Local irrigator who has participated in water recovery/efficiency upgrades
- Use of the Adelaide Desalination Plant. What does it mean in relation to the 450GL.
- Focus on integrated water management i.e. utilisation of alternative water sources such as recycled stormwater and wastewater
- Drought Impacts
- Livestock Water Security
- Gary Hera Singh – Lake & Coorong Fishery

12.30pm Break for Lunch

10 GUEST SPEAKERS Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Deana Mildren Regional Engagement Officer, Lower Murray

Monique White Assistant Director, Engagement Partnerships, Engagement and Strategic Policy

Please find attached Basin Plan Update Presentation given by Monique White and Deana Mildren of MDBA Engagement.

11 MEMBER REPORTS

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of meeting processes that could be improved.

13 NEXT MEETING:

Ordinary Meeting on Friday 9th of August – to held at Alexandrina Council at Goolwa.

14 CLOSE 2.27pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks the Rural City of Murray Bridge for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 6 – Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong

CURRENT REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP

Position	Name	Council	Member of Executive	Voting Member
Chair	Councillor Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina		
Executive Officer	Tracey Strugnell	Coorong District		
Council Representatives	Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Vincent Cammell	Coorong District		
	Councillor Miles Hannemann	Tatiara District		
	Councillor Vern Leng	Coorong District		
	Councillor Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District		
	Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina		
	Councillor Michael Scott	Alexandrina		
Private Members	Keith Loeser			
	Julie Barrie			
	Frank Tuckwell			
	Bruce Brooks			

NEXT MEETING DATES

Agreed Ordinary Meeting schedule for Region 6 for 2019 Ongoing locations to be confirmed 10am-2pm	Friday 9 th of August - Alexandrina Council, Goolwa - Chambers
Friday 15 th of February, Goolwa	MDA – AGM October 22-24, Toowoomba
Friday 5 th of April Coorong District Council Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend	Friday 11 th of October - Alexandrina Council, Goolwa - Chambers
Friday 28 th of June - to be hosted by Rural City of Murray Bridge	Friday 20 th of December

Meeting schedule for Region 6 Executive Group for 2019 Some locations to be confirmed 10am-1pm	Friday 26 th of July <u>9am Brief Ordinary Meeting</u> 10am Groups Symposium Fleurieu Function Centre - Goolwa South
Friday 22 nd of March Strathalbyn Library, Bremer Room	Friday 27 th of September Strathalbyn Library, Angas Room

Friday 7th of June – location to be confirmed

Friday 6th of December – location to be confirmed