



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: Friday 27 November 2015, Start Time: 10.30am

Location: AlburyCity Council

Address: 553 Kiewa St, Albury 2640

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Mr David Thurley	AlburyCity Council – Chairman Region 1
Cr Fiona Schirmer	Corowa Shire
Cr Bernard Gaffney	Indigo Shire
Cr Jenny O'Connor	Indigo Shire
Mr Mark Verbakeen	Wodonga Council
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire
Cr Stuart Herriot	Greater Hume Shire
Cr David Wortman	Mayor Towong Shire
Cr George Martin	Tumbarumba Shire
Mr Geoff Lucas	Beechworth
Guest:	
Mr Michael Machin	Norske Skog

1.2 Apologies

Hon Greg Aplin MP	Member for Albury
Gerry Smith	CEO Indigo Shire
Mr Ray Stubbs	Chief Executive Officer RAMROC
Cr Henk van de Ven	AlburyCity Council
Brad Ferris	AlburyCity Council
Cr Anna Speedie	Wodonga Council

1.3 Declaration of Interests

There was no Declaration of Interests received by the Chairperson.

2. WELCOME

2.1 Cr David Thurley – Chair Region 1

Cr Thurley welcomed members and guests to the meeting and declared the meeting opened and noted the apologies received.

Moved: Cr Fiona Schirmer, **Seconded:** Cr Stuart Herriot

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting on 21 August 2015 in Albury.

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn, **Seconded:** Geoff Lucas

MOTION: That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 meeting held on Friday 21 August 2015 in Albury be accepted.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Discussion of Voting Rights of Members

Region 1 members strongly indicated that individual members should be entitled to vote at the AGM. Their attendance and commitment indicates that they value the Association and should be permitted to vote. Perhaps there needs to be a reweighting of the votes for Councils and other bodies to better reflect the population basis of the membership. It was also suggested that the Board consider imposing a probation period for new members before they would be entitled to vote.

Moved: Cr Fiona Schirmer, **Seconded:** Cr Bernard Gaffney

MOTION:

- a. That the Murray Darling Association Region One members agree with the Constitution as it stands;
- b. That the Constitution be tabled at the Murray Darling Association Annual General Meetings for all to access throughout the meetings;
- c. That the Murray Darling Association may consider re-weighting the voting at Annual General Meetings; and
- d. The position of a quorum should be addressed in the Constitution.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS

5.1 Board matters

Cr Gaffney expressed concerns about the role of the President Cr Toll who appeared to advocate the extraction of groundwater for sale to bottled water manufacturers in an ABC Radio interview. Cr Gaffney asked was this the endorsed position of the Murray Darling Association? This is a matter of serious concern in Indigo Shire.

Moved: Mark Verbakeen **Seconded:** Cr Fiona Schirmer

MOTION:

- a. Resolve to accept the reports.
 - b. That Cr David Thurley email an update to all members of Region 1 on the results of the Region 2 meeting.
 - c. That the Region 1 have confidence in the Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer.
- CARRIED

5.2 Submission to the Senate Enquiry into the Murray Darling Basin Plan

Moved: Mark Verbakeen, **Seconded:** Cr Fiona Schirmer

MOTION:

- a. That the verbal update be received and noted; and
 - b. That a letter be sent to all Councils with outstanding fee invoice seeking payment and to all Councils that are not members, asking them to consider taking out membership.
- CARRIED

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Purpose and objectives for the year ahead – Region 1

Moved: Mark Verbakeen, **Seconded:** Cr George Martin

MOTION:

- a. That all Region 1 members are to provide feedback for both individual and Council views on what the direction, purpose and focus of the year ahead should be to Cr David Thurley; and
 - b. That Mark Verbakeen distribute a CD prepared a couple of years ago concerning strategic issues concerning water to all members. This would provide some ideas for the strategy development process.
- CARRIED

6.2 Call for nominations to the MDA Public Gift Fund (MDF) management committee

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn, **Seconded:** Cr Fiona Schirmer

MOTION:

- a. That the members note that no nominations were received for the MDA Public Gift Fund management committee; and
 - b. That more information on the MDA Public Gift Fund Management Committee be distributed to all members of MDA Region 1.
- CARRIED

7. STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION

7.1 Mr Michael Machin, Environment and Business Development Manager, Norske Skog presented about the NSW Green Offsets Scheme and a local example.

Moved: Cr Tony Quinn **Seconded:** Cr George Martin

MOTION: That the Murray Darling Association Region 1 members receive and note the update on the NSW Green Offsets Scheme by Mr Michael Machin, Environment and Business Development Manager, Norske Skog.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1 The next Murray Darling Association Region 1 meeting will be held at 10.30am on Friday 26 February 2016 at Indigo Shire in Beechworth.

9. CLOSE

9.1 The meeting closed at 12.08pm.

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
AlburyCity for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 1.*