



Region 4 Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 8 December 2020 – 1:00pm EDT

Venue: The Midway Centre, 6 Midway Drive, Buronga, NSW or
Via Video Conference

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

Meeting opened at 1:00pm

In Person	
Cr Jane MacAllister (Wentworth Shire Council)	Mike Colreavy (Balranald Shire Council)
Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)	Gavin Helgeland (Balranald Shire Council)
Cr Tim Elstone (Wentworth Shire Council)	Cathy Keegan
Ken Ross (Wentworth Shire Council)	Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)
Gayle Marsden (Wentworth Shire Council)	Emma Bradbury
Cr Jason Modica (Mildura Rural City Council)	Mike Colreavy (Balranald Shire Council)

2. APOLOGIES

Mayor Darriea Turley and Cr Browne (both of Broken Hill City Council)

Motion

That the apologies from Mayor Turley and Cr Browne be accepted.

Moved: Cr Heywood

Seconded: Cr Modica

CARRIED

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion

That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 September 2020 be accepted as circulated.

Moved: Gavin Helgeland

Seconded: Cr Heywood

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

5. REPORTS

The following verbal reports to be provided:

5.1 Report from the Chair – Cr MacAllister

- Minister for Environment, Matt Kean visited to release Numbats in the Region.
- Premier Berejiklian & Minister for Regional NSW and Fisheries, Adam Marshal MP released 60000 cod fingerlings in the Darling Baaka River at Menindee.

5.2 Council Reports – each Council to provide a verbal update of activities from their region

Balranald Shire Council

- Water in Lake Yanga at the moment and the wet lands are alive.
- Council has appointed Oliver McNaulty as new General Manager

Central Darling Shire Council

- Premier Berejiklian was in Menindee for cod release.
- Rachel Strachan & Terry Smith met with Premier and Minister Marshall and discussed Menindee SAG in particular regarding connectivity issues.
- There is no water flowing over the weir and river is dry upstream of Wilcannia.

Mildura Rural City Council

- Concerned about big rain event in February and already there is no water in Wilcannia.
- Council elected Cr Modica as Mayor and there were also five new Councillors elected.
- Cr Modica also advised he is Chair of Murray River Group of Councils

Wentworth Shire Council

- ICAC report – bureaucrats are still running the system to their own tune.
- Weir at Pooncarie a work in progress

5.3 Water Meetings Attended

- Wentworth Shire Council contributed financially to the Slattery+Johnson project – Bill & Maryanne and team presented to Council. Extraction in the early 90's was 500GL and now 1400GL
- Gavin Helgeland presented Murrumbidgee River: "Yanga Lake – Murrumbidgee River e-Water Optimisation Project: Improving Connectivity" to the MDA Region 2 meeting
- RAMJO Water position paper tabled

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MDA Change of Name – Attachment 1

- Consultation is open until February 21

6.2 Climate Ready Communities – Attachment 2

- Mildura Rural City Council & Broken Hill have climate policies, Balranald, Wentworth & Central Darling Councils do not.

6.3 NSW ICAC Report – [ICAC Report](#)

- Not independent, report released two days after Premier announced cutting of funds, the Act needs updating, found no evidence of individual corruption, many concerns similar to SA Royal Commission re objects, principles and duties of the WMAAct and inversion of legislated priorities (irrigators above communities, stock & domestic, environment and cultural needs)

6.4 Presentation of Project Proposal by Gavin Helgeland – Murrumbidgee River: "Yanga Lake – Murrumbidgee River e-Water Optimisation Project: Improving Connectivity"

- Request MDA Region 4 support Project for inclusion into SDLAM program

Motion

That MDA Region 4 support the Yanga Lake – Murrumbidgee River e-Water Optimisation Project: Improving Connectivity project to be presented as a SDLAM option.

Moved: Cr MacAllister

Seconded: Cr Elstone

CARRIED

6.5 Western Weirs Program – Attachments 3 & 4

- Hard to comment on Western Weirs project until we know what is happening at Menindee Lakes
- There are gaps in process and consultation

6.6 Proposed Legislative Amendments for Floodplain Harvesting in NSW – [Click here](#)

- MDA have had off line conversations with DPIE around consultation processes
- Link for submissions in agenda
- Cumulative effects not been taken into account ie effect on Lower Darling

6.7 Menindee Lakes Water Saving Project

- Meeting of 16 December 2020 has been cancelled and next meeting will be February 2020. SAG has pulled out of consultation until there is connectivity of the river.
- New option – additional 3 metres on Main Weir and Wetherall levy bank – **Chair will supply option via email**

6.8 MDA Conference 2021

- Emma Bradbury reported that she has spoken to Minister Pavey's office advising the Conference will be at Wentworth focusing on Menindee Lakes and SDLAM project
- Whole of Region represented in some way. All Region 4 Councils requested to provide a two minute video representing your area for delivery to the delegates.
- Theme: "Connectivity" Councils Communities Regions Rivers
- Call for local Sponsors who might want to be engaged

6.9 MDA Submission to the NSW Border Rivers: Floodplain Harvesting in Water Sharing Plans – Attachment 5

- For information and can be copied for submissions (permission given by CEO)

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Proposed 9 March 2020 & 8 June 2020 AGM

8. CLOSE 2:35PM

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
Wentworth Shire Council for their support in
hosting this meeting of Region 4.*