



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 5

www.mda.asn.au ABN: 64 636 490 493

Chairperson:
Cr Peter Raison

Hosting Council:
Mid Murray Council

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Region 5 – Ordinary Meeting

Minutes

Monday 1 June 2020

10-00 am Via Zoom Video Conferencing

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

Cr Peter Raison - Chair	Mid Murray Council
Cr Jeff Hall	Mid Murray Council
Ian Mann	Mid Murray Private Member
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri Barmera Council
Cr Mike Fuller	Berri Barmera Council
Cr Yvonne Smith	District Council of Karoonda East Murray
Cr Margaret Howie	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council
Emma Bradbury	Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association
Ben Fee	Chief Executive, Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland
Tim Smythe	Chief Executive Officer, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
Tracy Brophy	Minute Secretary, Mid Murray Council

1.2 Apologies:

Nil

2. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Region 5 Annual General Meeting – Ratify Nominations Received

Moved Cr Jeff Hall

That the following nominations submitted by Member Council's be ratified as representatives for Region 5 of the Murray Darling Association:

- Berri Barmera: Cr Kassebaum / Cr Fuller – Voting Delegate / Proxy
- Loxton Waikerie: Cr Walker / Cr Webber – Voting Delegate / Proxy
- Mid Murray: Cr Raison (Chairperson) / Cr Hall / Cr Myers – Voting Delegate / Proxy
- Karoonda East Murray: Cr Smith / Cr TBA – Voting Delegate / Proxy
- Renmark Paringa: Cr Howie / Cr Hunter – Voting Delegate / Proxy
- Private Member: Ian Mann OAM
- Private Member: Malcolm Wilksch

Seconded Cr Andrew Kassebaum

CARRIED

7. MDA CEO / NATIONAL AGM

7.1 CEO's Report

- **Emma Bradbury, CEO, Murray Darling Association** presented her CEO's report as follows: CEO reports are printed in the newsletter, monthly Board Reports and Board Minutes.
- Thanked Cr Raison for his nomination and appointment to the Chair and thanked Cr Peter Hunter for his work on the handover and time as Chair.
- E Bradbury, T Smythe (MRLGA), B Fee (RDAMR), Mayor Burgess and Mayor Hunt met to discuss creating strategic alliances with other agencies and stakeholders that benefit the Region's communities and avoid duplication.
- E Bradbury and Cr Thurley met with the Federal Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia, Hon Keith Pitt MP to discuss the inquiry into the management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources, the Lower Lakes review report and looking beyond the current implementation process and what comes after 2024.
- Flagged with the Minister and Mick Keelty, Interim Inspector-General of Murray-Darling Basin Water Resources, that the MDA has taken-up a lot of the load in terms of work practice and direction with the Interim Inspector-General Report and Sefton's Review and are encouraging the Federal Government to look at contributing financial to the operation of the MDA.
- The National President and E Bradbury were invited to review RAMJO's (Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation) Position Statement prior to its release.
- National Conference Update - The conference will be primarily a virtual event, with a possible after party in Shepparton, Victoria, in November.
- The Murray Darling Basin Leadership Program to be launched in the next few days.
- Cr Kassebaum asked if there was anything in the MDA Constitution about how many meetings a year are you expected to attend out of the full compliment of meetings held by the Regions. E Bradbury advised that the Constituion is silent on this.
- Discussion took place regarding the RAMJO Postion Statement.

- Discussion took place regarding Region 5's Position Statement and Cr Kassebaum discussed the following:
 - The Regions need to come up with a stronger Position Statement on where the Region stands in reference to the Basin Plan and what will happen after the Basin Plan implementation in 2024.
 - Believes the Sefton's Report will contain some recommendations past 2024.
 - Once the Report has been released, Region 5 need to review the recommendations and come up with a Position Statement for each recommendation to take back to the Council's for endorsement.
- Regions can submit items monthly for inclusion on the Board's Agenda.
- Currently consulting on Climate Ready Communities Position Statement, encouraging all Regions to consult with their member Councils.

T Smythe, CEO, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

addressed the Group and spoke about the Draft Strategic Plan and Draft Annual Business Plan and the provisions made within these Draft Plans to develop a Position Statement for water. MRLGA is looking for strong leadership from the Region to develop the Position Statement.

E Bradbury suggested an action coming out of the Minutes to get leadership happening within the MDA and MRLGA that it might be worth setting up a Working Group on this and perhaps approaching Mid Murray Council, who have always taken the leadership and the Chair of Region 6. Working Group discussed further in Item 6.1.

Cr Kassebaum suggested that the process could be that you take the recommendations from the Mick Kelty review, Productivities Commission Review and Sefton's Report, rule out the ones you don't agree with and work on the ones you do agree with to become the Position Statement for the Region.

T Smythe concluded his address.

B Fee, CE, Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland,

addressed the Group and discussed the MRLGA and RDA taking a proactive stance in how they are developing up their respective Strategic Plans. They are looking for as much alignment as possible, where the RDA and Council's provide some of the resourcing support in terms of staff primarily but also some in-kind and cash the RDA might have available to achieve the outcomes of the MRLGA with the RDA taking the lead on the regional development elements that are recognised within the MRLGA's Plan.

B Fee concluded his address.

- Discussion took place regarding strategic alliance between MDA, MRLGA & RDAMR, collaboration across the multiple organisation and regions.

7.2 Delegates Report

Link to Delegates Report was provided on the agenda.

7.3 National Conference Update

2020 Conference will be primarily virtual with a possible after party in Shepparton, Victoria, in November 2020.

10-51 am E Bradbury, T Smythe and B Fee left the meeting.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Material / Actual / Perceived

Nil

4. **MINUTES**

Moved Cr Peter Hunter

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on the 9 December 2019, are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Seconded Cr Andrew Kassebaum

CARRIED

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

6.1 Opportunities to Collaborate

General discussion ensued on opportunities to collaborate in the following areas:

- Economic Diversification
- Strategic Initiatives
- Basin Community Leadership Program.

Further discussion continued on setting up a Position Statement Working Group consisting of the following:

- Emma Bradbury, CEO Murray Darling Association
- Ben Fee, CE Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland
- Tim Smythe, CEO Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
- Region 5 Chairperson; and
- Region 6 Chairperson.

Resolved that the matter of the Position Statement Working Group be discussed at the next meeting.

6.2 Climate Ready Communities

Board meeting 392 Motion 6.2 resolved that the MDA express a statement of climate ready communities. A position statement has been drafted, with provision for each region to contribute a region profile and commitment to support their communities to be climate ready. A Climate Change Region template, and a draft from Region 11 which was shared at the most recent board meeting was distributed to all members.

The following was discussed:

- The MDA's draft position statement has provision for each Region to contribute.
- Should be about climate variability rather than climate change.
- The headings are really broad, need to hone in and make them more specific to what is affecting the Region.
- Need to seriously look at the variability and what that means for the Region in flood, drought, fire and extreme heat and what each Council is going to do about mitigating these issues.

- Suggested a workshop be held in the future to discuss Climate Change Position Statement and Action Plan. Also suggested that the template could be completed by members and then tabled at the workshop for discussion.
- Suggested that a part of Region 5's submission could be the consideration of the wording "Climate Change" be amended to "Climate Variability".
- Individually providing a position statement on climate variability and/or pulling out each Council's position statement from their Strategic Plans and submitting this to Region 5 for discussion.
- All Council's have a Strategic Plan which should include climate based strategies.

6.3 Motions – 2020 Murray Darling Association Annual General Meeting

The MDA requested all Regions to begin considering potential motions for the next Annual General Meeting and encouraged Regions to engage with their member Councils to help develop the motions. A template and copy of last year's motions were distributed to members for information and assistance.

6.4 Items for Murray Darling Association Board Meeting Agenda

Every month Chairpersons of the Regions are invited to submit relevant items (to their Regions) for inclusion on the MDA National Board Agenda. The National President will then consider these items for inclusion.

Cr Raison to provide report to MDA.

8. **PLANNING & COORDINATION**

Preference is for meetings to be held face to face but with the option of Zoom Video Conferencing.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussed Lower Lakes Review and Murray Darling Basin Plan post 2024.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

Date: 14 September 2020

Time: 10 am

Location: Mid Murray Council, Cnr Fourth & Eighth Streets, Morgan, in person and via Zoom Video Conferencing

11. **CLOSE**

11-13 am The Chairperson thanked everyone for their patience and help and declared the meeting closed.