



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Location:	Video conference
Time/date:	10.30am – 2.30pm, Friday 15 May 2020; with break from 12.15 to 12.30pm
Presenters:	Deana Mildren (MDBA) & Jarrod Eaton (DEW)

Meeting commenced at 10.30am

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country

MDA Region 6 and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of the Lower Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong region.

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 In Attendance

Mayor Brenton Lewis, Heather Barclay, Stephen Packer (Rural City of Murray Bridge)
CEO Bridget Mather, Councillor Vern Leng (Coorong District Council)
Cr Melissa Rebbeck, CEO Glenn Rappensberg, Councillor Michael Scott (Alexandrina Council)
Councillor Marilyn Henderson (City of Victor Harbor)
Julie Barrie, Bruce Brooks (Individual Members)

1.2 Guests

Emma Bradbury (MDA CEO)
Deana Mildren (Regional Engagement Officer, Lower Murray; MDBA)
Jarrod Eaton (Manager, River Murray Water Delivery; DEW)
Monika Rhodes (Secretariat, Alexandrina Council)
Tania Baldock (Minute taker, Alexandrina Council)

1.3 Apologies

Cr Brenton Qualmann (Coorong District Council)
Malcom Downie (Rural City of Murray Bridge)
Keith Loeser, Frank Tuckwell (Individual Members)
Cr Michael Scott (Alexandrina Council) – apology after lunch

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

3. MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes of the MDA Region 6 committee meeting held on 14 February 2020 as circulated to members, be received as a true and correct record.

Amendment: Position title for Heather Barclay changed to General Manager.

Moved: Cr Vern Leng

Seconded: Bruce Brooks

CARRIED

4. GUEST PRESENTERS

Topic: Federal and State Government drought preparedness

4.1 Deana Mildren (MDBA)

Deana presented on: Development of the Basin, Existing Climate Adaptions, Evaluation Opportunities, Future mitigation challenges (Attachment 1).

4.2 Jarrod Eaton (DEW)

Jarrod presented on the River Murray system inflows and storages; current water resource position and climate outlook; and what does this mean for South Australia and the Lower Lakes (Attachment 2).

ACTIONS ARISING:

- Jarrod and Deana to provide links to fact sheets on water sharing with Victoria and NSW.
- Automation of Barrages – Advocacy investment infrastructure plan. Jarrod to provide content/briefing notes to MDA to assist with advocacy.

5. REPORTS

5.1 CEO's Report – Emma Bradbury

- E Bradbury and D Thurley met with Federal Water Minister The Hon Keith Pitt. The meeting
 - Provided a detailed introduction of the MDA.
 - Commended the findings and recommendations of the *Inquiry into the management of Murray–Darling Basin water resources* by The Interim Inspector-General to the Minister, and invited the Minister to work closely with the MDA and our councils and communities to look beyond the current Basin Plan and ensure robust preparations for the next iteration.
- Emma noted the action taken by Wagga City Council to terminate the appointment of their delegate after the delegate made inflammatory and inaccurate comments about the MDA and it was found that he had not attended an MDA meeting for almost 3 years. Council replaced the delegate stating that it was important that their council was effectively represented and was getting value for their membership.
- Emma noted that the MDA National President and CEO had been invited by the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) to review their position statement prior to its release. Emma noted that the RAMJO councils had done an excellent job in creating alignment and a clear, articulate and informed position on key issues in a highly contentious community – home of such groups as Can the Plan, Southern Riverina Irrigators and Speak-Up Campaign.

- Emma talked about The Lower Lakes Independent Science Review, noting that she is encouraged to see further affirmation of some of the baseline assumptions and science underpinning development of the Basin Plan, and hoping that this will build confidence across Basin communities.
- Finally, reflecting on parts of the presentation by Jarrod Eaton regarding the operation of the barrages, Emma recommended that Region 6 invite the Department to prepare a briefing paper that would support a motion calling on the National Water Grid Authority to support commonwealth investment in the upgrade of the barrages to enhance efficiencies in river operations.

Further information on MDA agendas, minutes and CEO reports can be found here:

- <https://www.mda.asn.au/agendas-minutes.aspx>
- <https://www.mda.asn.au/about-us/ceo-s-reports.aspx>.

ACTION ARISING:

Deana Mildren MDBA: to provide names of potential speakers on flood plain harvesting.

5.2 Chair's Report – Cr Melissa Rebbeck

Verbal report provided (Attachment 3).

5.3 Strategic Advisory Group Report – Mayor Lewis

- The Strategic Advisory Groups role is to advise the CEO on issues raised. It was advised that two areas of consultation were on
 - MDA AGM to be seperated from the conference.
 - In light of COVID-19 restrictions suggested the Conference could be held as a virtual conference in 2020.
- MDA responsible, cost effective in delivery and efficient. The Strategic Advisory Group recognise that for MDA to be economically sustainable, grants funding should not be the main funding source. Membership growth being the main source and encouraging more members. A considered 60 to 70 percent sustainable membership funding and 30 percent from grant funds. How does it fit in with our strategic plan? How does your input affect the priorities?
- Running projects important, saw as additional 1 to 3 year funding, strong business case that aligns with our strategic plan.
- Advocacy core business: How will the centre of excellence impact and how will it differ from CSIRO and MBDBA?
 - Executive support: Mayor Lewis acknowledged the support Alexandrina Council provides to MDA Region 6 with extra resourcing (additional Secretariate support via Glenn Rappensberg's EA); and highlighted the importance to go out to the market to fill the position; but acknowledged that Councils are struggling to find support through budgets during COVID-19.

5.4 Murray Darling Basin Authority Report

A presentation on the update on the Murray Darling Basin was provided by Deana Mildren (Attachment 4).

ACTION ARISING:

All: To send myth busting email suggestions (list of topics) to Monika.

Deana left the meeting at 12.09pm

5.5 Secretariat Report – Monika Rhodes

Verbal report provided on work undertaken since the last meeting in February 2020:

- Ongoing support to the Chair, such as monthly Board Reports to MDA.
- Combined the two action lists – as per resolution from February meeting (supplied as Attachment 10 to the agenda).
- Region 6 provided a Submission on Draft Panel Report: Independent assessment of social and economic conditions in the Basin on 6 April 2020.
- Provided a copy of the submission to the MDA for possible inclusion in a nation-wide MDA submission.
- Provided consolidated Region 6 feedback on the top three Strategic Priorities to CEO Emma Bradbury for discussion at the next Board Meeting.
- Attended the newly established MDA Secretariat monthly catch-up.
- Provides news updates (when time allows).
- Alexandrina Council continues advocacy for CLLMM: feature article on page 8 and 9 in [Alex Council's April Newsletter](#).
- Preparing for the agenda items; video conferencing – acknowledged the great help received by Tania.

Recommendation

That reports 5.1 to 5.5 be received.

Moved: Mayor Brenton Lewis

Seconded: Bridget Mather

CARRIED

Meeting break at 12.15pm

Meeting recommenced at 12.35pm

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Drought Preparedness (All Member Councils)

Member Councils updated on Federal Drought funding & Council drought preparedness:

- Alexandrina Council (Glenn Rappensberg):
 - Received 2 x Drought Community funding. Received notification of extension funding – successful. Alexandrina projects commissioning June 2020.
 - Alexandrina Climate Emergency Declaration – going through the budget process.
- Rural City of Murray Bridge (Heather Barclay):
 - Drought funding x 2; \$1m each, going to two different projects:
 - Jarvis Road Sealing - upgrade on an unsealed secondary freight network: farm access to market
 - Hoadville Road Sealing - upgrade on an unsealed secondary freight network: farm access to market
 - Landscaping & Irrigations Works (Swanport Entrance to RCMB) in collaboration with SA Water (utilising recycled waste water)
 - All works to be undertaken by local contractors.
 - Funding Partnership program with SA Water: New pump station; commemorating Ngarrindjeri story (from Murray Bridge to the Murray Mouth); extending landscaping water from waste water treatment plant.
 - Declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Preparing a plan. Further plans for harvest of storm water. Review of environmental management plan. Consultation, plans may be

adopted in 2020.

- Round 2: Secondary freight network, supporting southeast region of council area.
- Received Bushfire funds for pump access stations: Council providing in kind support to local farmers in bush fire areas.
- Coorong District Council (Bridget Mather):
 - Drought funding 2nd stage confirmation received 14 May 2020.
 - Continue the work of Round 1: Footpaths to schools and learning centres, roads in Tailem Bend, as well as facilities for sports clubs, community toilets, upgrade museum.
 - Round 2: Focus on Coonalbyn pools, sporting facilities.
 - Project Landcare support work: Variety way of accessing grants, e.g. Council works with landcare groups in multiple ways.
- City of Victor Harbor (Marilyn Henderson):
 - Budget bids on improved water allocation for parks and gardens (capital works and water wise storage collection).

6.2 Climate-ready communities

A Region 6 statement prepared by Cr Rebbeck for consideration was provided in a separate email on 12 May 2020 (Attachment 5).

ACTION ARISING:

- Monika to recirculate Region 6 draft.
- Members to comment on latest version with track changes to Monika by Friday COB 12 June 2020.
- Approval will be sought out of session.

6.3 Forward planning for National Conference motions

6.3.1 Region 6 motions

In principal support was provided for proposed motions that were sent in a separate email on 14 May 2020 (Attachment 6).

ACTION ARISING:

- Monika to distribute Motions 1 and 2 to members for their review and input ; including modernisation of barrage gates and the efficiencies, stating federal funding requirements.
- Members to review and comment on motions and supporting comments.
- Any input to be emailed to Monika, showing any changes as track-changes by Friday COB 20 June 2020.
- Monika to collate and send final suite of motions to MDA Inc by 15 July 2020.

6.3.2 National motions proposed by MDA National

Motions proposed by CEO Emma Bradbury to the chair (Attachment 7) were emailed to members during the meeting and member are encouraged to provide feedback to Monika for collation.

Motion 1

Call to action

Coordinated a federal response. To keep Lower Lakes separate. Suggested some words around encouragement and consistent approach instead of a silo response.

Motion 2

Position on recovery of 450GL of upwater

Region 6 Members support this motion – MDA Region 6 to take the lead on this motion.

Motion 3**Position on Buybacks**

To provide feedback to the Board regarding water transfers and should reflect social economic feedback.

Motion 4**Support CSIRO's role as Australia's national Science Agency to build trust and unanimity.**

Members felt that this is already supported.

Motion 5**Funding for MDB National Outlook**

CSIRO – relationship – national plan could be supplemented by words such as work in partnership in individual states agencies. Also collaboration with independent scientists.

Motion 6**Funding for Strategic Comms re national Water Infrastructure Authority**

Members to forward proposed wording.

ACTION ARISING:

- Develop the motion and circulate to members for their input.
- Any input to be emailed to Monika, showing any changes as track-changes by Friday COB 20 June 2020.
- Monika to collate and get endorsement from Region 6 members for Motion 2.
- Monika to send final suite of motions to MDA by 15 July 2020.

6.4 Working closer with LGA

- MDA Region 7 will organise the next inter-regional meeting via video conferencing.

7. OTHER BUSINESS**7.1 For noting:**

- MDA Region 6 members noted reports.

7.2 Correspondence

- Correspondence noted; provided as part of the agenda.
- Correspondence email from Cr Leng re Deputy Premier NSW countersigned by NSW Water Minister with misleading information, that had not been forwarded to the members with the agenda, was sent during the meeting (Attachment 8).

ACTION ARISING:

Chair to take to the next MDA Board meeting for discussion.

7.3 Agenda items – new format

- Requested any items submitted by members for the agenda be provided to secretariat to include a recommendation, action or resolution, similar model to Council reports.

7.4 Strategic Directions & Minutes Action List

- Item 2 - Alexandrina Council CEO & Strategic Policy Officer will develop a plan to circulate regarding the tour of the barrages.

- Item 3 - Annual Stakeholders symposium – move to an online webinar? Will review at August meeting. With a view to hold in November. Will await announcement of dates of the National AGM and Conference.
- Item 4 - Flood harvesting – Deana will provide names of potential speakers.
- Item 5 - Extensive media piece on the advocacy of Lower Lakes.
- Item 6 - City of Victor Harbor – contacted regarding co contribution for Executive Officer and correspondence sent to Mt Barker encouraging consideration of membership.
- Item 8 – To be discussed upon confirmation of Executive Officer role.
- Item 12 - Submitted.

Recommendation

That the Strategic Directions & Minutes Action List items 9-12 are noted and marked as completed and the remaining items for the May 2020 meeting be received.

Moved: Glenn Rappensberg

Seconded: Marilyn Henderson.

CARRIED

ACTION ARISING:

Endeavour to try and secure Professor Mike Young, suggested to secure for inter regional meeting later in the year.

7.5 Member Reports

Nil

8. NEXT MEETINGS (refer to Region 6 Calendar below)

That the stakeholder symposium may be provided online and/or merged with the November Region 6 meeting on 6 November 2020.

Region 6 members were also informed that the Executive members have decided that the barrage tour may be combined with the next Leadership

ACTION ARISING:

Format and date of stakeholder symposium to be decided at the next MDA Region 6 meeting in August.

9. CLOSE

Meeting closed: 2.06pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges Alexandrina Council for its support in hosting this virtual meeting of Region 6 – Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong.

7.4

2020/2021 REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP

Position	Name	Council	Member of Executive	Voting Member
Chair	Councillor Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina		
Secretariat	Monika Rhodes	Alexandrina		
Council Representatives	Mayor Brenton Lewis	Murray Bridge		
	Heather Barclay	Murray Bridge		
	Stephen Packer	Murray Bridge		
	CEO Bridget Mather	Coorong District		
	Councillor Vern Leng	Coorong District		
	Councillor Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District		
	Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina		
	Councillor Michael Scott	Alexandrina		
	Councillor Marilyn Henderson	Victor Harbor		
	Councillor Miles Hannemann	Tatiara District		
	CEO Jason Taylor	Southern Mallee		
Individual Members	Keith Loeser			
	Julie Barrie			
	Frank Tuckwell			
	Bruce Brooks			
	Adrian Pederick, MP JP			

The 2020/21 calendar for MDA-Region 6

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
14 February 2020	Region 6 AGM & Ordinary Meeting	Topic: set region direction for 2020
12-13 March	MDA Strategic Planning Workshop	Region 6 attendance
15 May 2020	Region 6 Ordinary Meeting	Topic: Drought Preparedness Member councils to share info re use of Federal drought funds Seek relevant guest speaker Forward planning for National Conference motions
26-27 May 2020 Postponed - TBA	Basin Communities Leadership Program (BCLP) – Lower Lakes	Lead: Alexandrina Update May 2020: Barrage tour to be combined either with BCLP or stakeholder symposium. To be discussed in Region 6 August meeting.
June/July 2020 Postponed – TBA	EM & Inter-Regional Tour of CLLMM (barrage tour)	Lead: TBD, liaise with MDA Primary audience = Members & EMs of Region 6 member councils; Secondary audience = Members of upstream regions; BCLP Cohort Update May 2020: Barrage tour to be combined either with BCLP or stakeholder symposium. To be discussed in Region 6 August meeting.
7 August 2020	Region 6 Ordinary Meeting	Topic: Consider National Conference motions
12-14 August 2020 Postponed - TBA	MDA National AGM & National Conference	Region 6 attendance TBD Update May 2020: National Conference and AGM may be held on two separate dates. TBA
Sept/Oct 2020 Postponed - TBA	Annual Region 6 Stakeholder Symposium	Lead: Executive Officer Outcomes of Lower Lakes Independent Science Review + Shared Vision Statement + Drought Preparedness Update May 2020: Organiser, new date and format to be discussed at the Region 6 August meeting; Barrage tour to be combined either with BCLP or stakeholder symposium.
6 November 2020	Region 6 Ordinary Meeting	Topic: TBD Update May 2020: November meeting to be part of the stakeholder symposium? To be discussed in Region 6 August meeting.
5 February 2021	Region 6 AGM & Ordinary Meeting	Topic: Set region direction for 2021

Region 6 Meetings
Region 6 Events
MDA Meetings/Events