



Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Location:	Alexandrina Council Chambers 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa SA 5214
Time/date:	10am – 3pm Friday 9 August 2019
Presenters:	Faith Coleman, EcoProTem re Coorong Environmental Trust Michael Cutting, Natural Resources SAMDB re Irrigation Efficiency Projects

1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our Council district, and of the wider Lower Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong region.

1.2 Housekeeping

2. ATTENDANCE

2.1 Present:

Voting Members:

Cr Vern Leng (Coorong District Council), Mayor Brenton Lewis, Heather Barclay, Malcolm Downie (Rural City of Murray Bridge), Cr Michael Scott, Cr Melissa Rebbeck - Chair, Glenn Rappensberg (Alexandrina Council), Julie Barrie, Keith Loeser, Frank Tuckwell (Private Members).

Guest Speakers:

Faith Coleman (Coorong Environmental Trust), Michael Cutting (NRSAMDB), Emma Bradbury (MDA CEO), Monique White (MDBA).

Other Guests:

Shen Mann (Executive Officer), Geoff Gallasch, Elizabeth Tregenza.

2.2 Apologies:

Tracey Strugnell, Cr Brenton Qualmann (Coorong District Council), Bruce Brooks (Private Member), Lesley Fischer, Cr Peter Smith OAM – Mid Murray Council, Michelle Campbell – CEWO (Guests)

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

4. MINUTES

Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting on 28 June 2019 in Murray Bridge.

Moved: Cr Leng

Seconded: Keith Loeser

CARRIED

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

5.1 Faith Coleman re Coorong Environmental Trust

Presentation attached.

Action arising:

- R6 Executive Officer to prepare submission re Select Committee inquiry into Coorong Environmental Trust Bill, due 6 September 2019.

5.2 Michael Cutting re Irrigation Efficiency Projects

Presentation attached.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Motions for MDA National Conference

1. Local Government Elections & Continuity of Regional Leadership

That MDA adopt a policy which facilitates continuity of Region leadership in Local Government election years, with the Region AGM to be held as soon as practicably possible after the outcome of Local Government elections is known.

Moved: Julie Barrie

Seconded: Cr Scott

CARRIED

2. Proxy attendance at MDA Board Meetings

That the MDA consider possible constitutional change which would enable a nominated member of the Region Executive to attend MDA Board meetings as proxy for Region Chair should the Region Chair be unavailable to attend.

Moved: Julie Barrie

Seconded: Glenn Rappensberg

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Research re impact and management of nutrient load

That the MDA advocate for increased State and Federal government investment in research that articulates the impact of nutrient load in the MDB as a result of current and forecast increased fertiliser and herbicide usage from agriculture in the run-off zone, reports on findings, and identifies alternatives that will reduce nutrient loads.

Moved: Cr Rebbeck
Seconded: Mayor Lewis
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Agricultural Productivity Target

That the MDA advocate for the Australian Government agricultural productivity target to be supported by a research program to develop innovative strategies for achieving the target in a water constrained future, including via the use of alternative water sources.

Moved: Mayor Lewis
Seconded: Cr Rebbeck
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Population Growth

That the MDA engage with the Federal Government on how it intends to facilitate population growth whilst maximizing socio-economic benefits for regional communities and mitigating risks to the health of the Murray Darling Basin system.

Moved: Mayor Lewis
Seconded: Cr Leng
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action arising:

- Motions to be submitted to MDA National by 21 August.
- Moving Council to prepare supporting comments if required by MDA template.

6.2 MDA-R6 Symposium – Refer Agenda Attachment 3, page 15.

Previous date (26 July 2019) cancelled due to concerns raised by CEO re invitations extended to Ministers. Agenda has been revised to seek agency rather than political representation from State and Federal Government. Seeking ratification of revised date and agenda.

Date options discussed:

- Friday 13 September 2019 i.e. before inter-regional in late September
- Friday 25 or 27 September i.e. day before or after inter-regional
- Friday 11 October 2019 i.e. after inter-regional on date scheduled for next R6 meeting

Motion

That MDA-R6 endorse the revised agenda in principle for the Symposium with a proposed date of Wednesday 25 September or Friday 27 October 2019.

Moved: Julie Barrie
Seconded: Heather Barclay
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action arising:

- Alexandrina Council to work with Cr Rebbeck to book venue, catering, facilitator, speakers, send invitations and pre-event survey.

6.3 South Australian Inter-Regional Meeting

To be hosted by LGA at LGA House. Cr Rebbeck liaising with Steven Smith at LGA re date and agenda. Agenda ideas sought from SA Region Chairs and Region 6 Members during July 2019.

Actions arising:

- Proposed date of Thursday 26 September to be confirmed by Cr Rebbeck.
- Any R6 members with ideas for agenda items, to contact Cr Rebbeck directly.

12.30pm Break for Lunch

Voting members absent after lunch: Glenn Rappensberg, Mayor Lewis, Cr Leng, Julie Barrie.

7. VERBAL REPORTS

7.1 CEO's Report – Emma Bradbury

CEO Report from July Board meeting taken as read. MDA Board Minutes for July available online: <https://www.mda.asn.au/agendas-minutes.aspx>.

CEO gave verbal report re progress of Basin Communities Leadership Program and outcomes of Ministerial Council and COAG meetings at which Basin States renewed commitment to Basin Plan.

MDA has written to all Water & Local Government Ministers reiterating support for Basin Plan and importance of including local government in definition of "Basin Governments"

Actions arising:

- R6 Executive to liaise with CEO re proposed Executive Officer model for R6.
- CEO to ensure future renewal letters for private members is targeted to role of individual letters, rather than being sent the standard letter designed by local government members.
- MDA to provide templates to region secretariats for monthly board report, motions for national conference and annual report.

7.2 Chair's Report – Cr Melissa Rebbeck

Cr Rebbeck provided a verbal report, noting that the regions are being asked to provide a position on the call for national royal commission into the Basin Plan.

Proposed motion

That:

1. MDA-R6 note their continued support for full and timely implementation of the Basin Plan;
2. the MDA-R6 Chair advocate for the MDA Board to call on the South Australian and Federal Governments to respond in full to the findings of the SA Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission, including how they intend to address concerns raised by the Commission into future Basin Plan implementation activities.
3. the MDA-R6 Chair advise the Board that MDA-R6 does not support the call for a national Royal Commission at this stage.

Action arising:

- Motion to be circulated out of session due to lack of quorum.

7.3 Strategic Advisory Group Report – Mayor Lewis

Verbal report provided before lunch break.

Motion

That verbal report be accepted.

Moved: Keith Loeser

Seconded: Malcolm Downie

CARRIED

7.4 Secretariat Report – Shen Mann, Alexandrina Council

Verbal report provided. New Environmental Strategy Officer commencing on 16 September 2019 will be available to assist with Executive Officer role. DEW have advised they will soon be seeking Expressions of Interest for new advisory group called the Coorong Partnership.

Action arising:

- Shen to circulate link for Coorong Partnership EOI once available.

7.5 Murray Darling Basin Authority Report – Monique White/Deana Mildren

Presentation attached.

7.6 Member Reports

Action arising:

- At request of Cr Scott, Cr Rebbeck to enquire at next MDA Board meeting whether Clarence River Project is on the agenda for 2019 national conference.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 MDA-R6 Action List - Refer Attachment.

8.2 Correspondence

- Notification to R6 Chair of MDA Membership Invoices & Quotes – 25 June 2019
- R6 Media Update – 9 July 2019
- Advance Notice of Region 7 Meeting on 22 August – 10 July 2019
- MDBA Briefings to National Peak Groups on 4 July 2019 available here, link forwarded by River Lakes & Coorong Action Group:
<https://getinvolved.mdba.gov.au/briefings/documents>
- Faith Coleman - Updates on Coorong Environmental Trust dated 27 July 2019 and 1 August 2019 (Second Reading Debate)
- Basin Bulletin Issue 24, 1 August 2019: <https://mailchi.mp/a4a8c6f82dda/basin-bulletin-issue-604705>
- Email to Mayors inviting comment to MDB Independent Social and Economic Panel.

The Panel will study the social and economic conditions affecting communities in the Basin including underlying causes such as drought, demographic change, commodity prices and water reform. Submissions on TOR are due by 16 August 2019. See website for more detail: <https://www.basin-socio-economic.com.au/>

- Media Update from MDA CEO re outcomes of MinCo, forwarded by Cr Rebbeck on Thursday 8 August.

Actions arising:

- Cr Rebbeck to look at TOR for Social and Economic Panel to advise whether submission required. Submissions on TOR due 16 August 2019.
- Heather Barclay to look at ACCC Murray Darling Basin Water Markets inquiry to advise whether submission required. Closing date for submissions not yet announced.
- Executive Officer to look at MDBA Basin-wide environmental water strategy 2019 to advise whether submission required. Submissions due 2 September 2019.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

Action arising:

- RCMB council report re staff/EMs attending national conference
- Alexandrina council report re staff/EMs attending national conference
- Coorong council report re staff/EMs attending national conference

10. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- Proposed SA Inter-Regional Meeting – Thursday 26 September 2019
- MDAR6 Stakeholder Symposium – 25 or 27 September 2019
- R6 Ordinary Meeting - Friday 11 October, Coorong District Council
- R6 Executive Meeting – Friday 11 October, after Ordinary Meeting
- MDA National Conference, Toowoomba – 22-24 October 2019
- R6 Ordinary Meeting – Friday 13 December, Rural City of Murray Bridge
- R6 Executive Meeting – Friday 13 December, after Ordinary Meeting

Actions arising:

- Update meeting invite for R6 Exec meeting on Friday 11 October
- Update meeting invite for R6 Ordinary & Exec meeting on Friday 13 October

11. CLOSE

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Alexandrina Council 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		
Secretariat	Shen Mann	Alexandrina		
Council Representatives	Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Tracey Strugnell (proxy for 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			