



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 6 Ordinary Meeting MINUTES

Location:	Coorong District Council Chambers - Taillem Bend 95/101 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend SA 5260
Time/date:	10am – 2pm Friday, 11 October 2019
Presenters:	N/A

1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Coorong District 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, Cr Brenton Qualmann, Tracey Strugnell (Coorong District Council);
Heather Barclay, Stephen Packer (Rural City of Murray Bridge);
Cr Melissa Rebbeck - Chair, Glenn Rappensberg (Alexandrina Council);
Cr Marilyn Henderson (City of Victor Harbor);
Keith Loeser, Bruce Brooks (Private Members).

Guests:

Monika Rhodes (Executive Officer)

2.2 Apologies:

Mayor Lewis (Rural City of Murray Bridge);
Cr Michael Scott, Shen Mann (Alexandrina Council);
Frank Tuckwell (Private Member).

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil.

4. MINUTES

Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting on 9 August 2019 in Goolwa.

Moved: Cr Leng

Seconded: Heather Barclay

Carried.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

N/A

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MDA National Conference

Attendees acknowledged the following information for the National Conference in Toowoomba, Queensland available online on the MDA webpage:

- [2019 MDA AGM Agenda and meeting papers](#)
- [Motions on Notice](#)
- [2018-2019 Annual Report](#)

MDA Region 6 members attending the National Conference are:

- Chair Cr Rebbeck, Glenn Rappensberg, Cr Scott (Alexandrina Council)
- Mayor Lewis (Rural City of Murray Bridge)
- Cr Hill (Coorong District Council)
- Stephen Packer (Rural City of Murray Bridge).

6.2 Motions for MDA National Conference

Motions were read and discussed one at a time and classified into three categories (Supported; Supported with amendments; Not supported). There was considerable discussion for Motions 2, 5-8, 13, 16, 20 and what the implications would mean for South Australia in regard to sustainable diversion limits and ecological impacts for the lower lakes and the Coorong. Also discussed was that further information would be required, particularly from Monique White (MDBA) in regards to Motions 7, 8 and 16.

It was also noted that the key arguments of Motion 12 from Region 6 were not incorporated into the Motions on Notice published on the [MDA webpage](#). While several requests were sent to MDA for inclusion of the full Motion 12 into the final document, the CEO of MDA stated on 9/10/2019 that the Motions on Notice have been finalised and that no further changes could be made.

Actions arising:

- Executive Officer to send out voting instructions with supporting comments to Region 6 members attending National Conference.

6.3 MDA-R6 Symposium

Shen Mann sent an apology. Cr Rebbeck stated that a review of the outcomes of the MDA Region 6 Symposium will be provided in the December 2019 meeting at Murray Bridge. However, the general consensus from the meeting was that an annual symposium is a good way to connect with the community.

Actions arising:

- Executive Officer: To send out a list of strategies that were discussed at the symposium to all members.
- Executive Officer: To send out an invitation to all symposium attendees to join MDA Region 6.

6.4 South Australian Inter-Regional Meeting

Cr Rebbeck provided an update on the meeting. The meeting was well attended with good outcomes and good network building across the SA MDA Regions. The information provided at the Inter-Regional Meeting by Professor Mike Young was also considered interesting but discussions are required if a full review of the Water Act and the Basin Plan would be in South Australia's interest.

12.00 - 12.30pm Break for Lunch

7. VERBAL REPORTS

7.1 CEO's Report – Emma Bradbury

CEO gave verbal report about the ongoing organization of the upcoming National Conference. Numbers, due to the locations, were not as high as hoped. Another issue stated was that due to Senate Estimates being on at the same week, key presenters were hard to organize. However, MDA was able to retain senior representation from all three areas.

The CEO stated that it has been a busy and successful year and that the [2018-2019 Annual Report](#) has been published on the webpage; including that the MDA Regions will take greater precedence on MDBA business items.

The CEO voiced her pleasure to have been invited to the Region 6 symposium and that it was great to see the region increasingly be involved in MDA. It will be seen as a good model to export to other regions.

The CEO also answered a couple of questions from the Chair Cr Rebbeck in regards to the running of the Motions at the conference. The CEO apologised again that Motion 12 has not been incorporated in full on the website. Because of the URL links sent out to everyone, the Motions of Notice document cannot be replaced with an updated version without losing the URL link. However, the CEO stated that she was willing to send on the full Motion 12 to all MDA Chairs; and that at the conference the full Motion 12 can be shown on the screens.

The CEO further stated that the MDA Board Minutes and CEO Reports for August and September are available online:

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

7.2 Chair's Report – Cr Melissa Rebbeck

Verbal report provided before lunch break.

The Chair, Cr Rebbeck, provided a verbal report of Region 6 business as well as the South Australian Government response to the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission and the Productivity Commission's five-year assessment. Of the 82 recommendations made in the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission and Productivity Commission reports the State Government either supports in full or partially 66 recommendations, doesn't support 10, with six either not applicable to South Australia, or requiring further consideration.

The Chair also raised the issue of the short turnaround times for her and Region 6 Executives to respond to the CEO's flying minutes and other requests, which often only have only a couple hours of turnaround timeframes. Often, the timeframe does not allow for a full executive review and is often done by based on the Executive Officer level advice.

Keith Loeser, public member, asked if members can have their input. The Chair responded that this would be beneficial but is usually not possible as the turnaround timeframes are hours only, often too short to even get Executive review.

Action arising:

- **Chair:** In the future in any of the Chair's responses to the MDA CEO to state if the response is based on an Executive level advice or on Executive Officer level advice.

The Chair also raised awareness of the [10th Water Symposium: Managing Legal and Regulatory Risk](#) to be held by Professor Mike Young on 18 October 2019. In lieu of being able to go to the Symposium, it was discussed to invite Professor Young to the MDA Region 6 meeting.

Actions arising:

- Executive Officer: To send out email to Region 6 members with link to the Water Symposium.
- Executive Officer: To invite Professor Young to the next MDA Region 6 meeting.

7.3 Strategic Advisory Group Report – Mayor Lewis (Apology)

Verbal report provided before lunch break.

At the Inter-Regional MDA meeting in Adelaide, 26 September 2019, the SA MDA Regional chairs identified to seek input into the 2020 evaluation report on the Basin Plan to ensure that it identifies key issues which must be addressed in the 2026 review of the Plan, and will be making suggestions as to what these issues are via items of business through SAROC and GAROC.

Mayor Lewis had the opportunity of raising these on 1 October 2019 with the CEO and a board member of the LGA. The advice Mayor Lewis received was that there will be considerable consultation for some months commencing in February 2020 and that the SA MDA will have every opportunity to have input.

During the meeting it was discussed that Region 6 should provide input into the review of the Basin Plan in 2020 through SAROC and GAROC.

Actions arising:

- **Executives:** To make Mayors aware that Region 6 uses the LGA to influence MBDA and the Basin Plan review (e.g at the annual meeting of the Chairs).
- **Chair:** To write to the SA MDA Chairs to come to the LGA annual meeting and discuss how the LGA can to use their influence in the Basin Plan review.
- **Executive Officer:** To write a letter to the executive officers of the Chairs of SAROC and GAROC to ask them to use their influence in the Basin Plan review.

7.4 Secretariat Report – Monika Rhodes, Alexandrina Council

Verbal report provided on:

- **Motions:** Executive Officer (Shen) and Stephen Packer (RCMB) did the supporting comments for Region 6 Motions;
- Successful Symposium held in Goolwa on 25 September (refer to Item 6.3);
- Inter-regional meeting held on 26 September (refer to Item 6.4);
- Media reporting – weekly if time allows;
- Workshop report from Symposium will be presented in the December meeting; and
- Many actions were finalised (referred to highlighted rows on the action list).

Motion:

- To take out the highlighted rows (i.e. completed actions) from the action list.

Moved: Tracey Strugnell

Seconded: Cr Leng

Carried.

7.5 Murray Darling Basin Authority Report – Monique White

Verbal report provided by Monique with an update on MDBA being sent by PowerPoint presentation (Presentation attached; Attachment 1).

In regards to questions MDA Region 6 has to Motions 7, 8 and 16, Monique responded that the PowerPoint presentation that will be sent will provide some background data and information on Motions 8 and 9, while Motion 7 is outside the MDBA.

7.6 Member Reports

Project Coorong – Tracey Strugnell

Two meetings were held so far with two more to come. Attendance at Meningie was 58, while Goolwa had 46. Feedback was generally very positive. It was stated that many Murray Darling water issues were discussed at the Goolwa meeting.

Strategic Plan – Glenn Rappensberg

The Strategic Plan needs to be progressed to include the outcomes of the Symposium and the National Conference.

Resourcing: Executive Officer Role – Glenn Rappensberg

The current arrangement of 0.25 FTE is not enough for the work to be carried out for MDA Region 6. An increase of 0.5 FTE is being considered but would need to go past MDA Board. To be discussed further and progressed by R6 Executive.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 MDA-R6 Action List (Attachment 2)

This was deferred in favour of discussing the Motions on Notice in more detail. MDA R6 Action List will be discussed in the December meeting.

8.2 Correspondence

Correspondence, attached to the agenda, was noted.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

9.1 Question

Keith Loeser, Private Member, asked the Chair if the drought is being taken into the Basin Plan. Cr Rebbeck answered that this is a point that would be important to be looked at.

9.2 Motion

That the Chair is able to approve Private Members to attend as regional delegates if they wish to register as Region 6 members at the National Conference.

Moved: Cr Leng

Seconded: Cr Qualmann

Carried.

Keith Loeser and Bruce Brooks both declined.

9.3 MDA Board updates

Cr Leng reported on changes to the Code of Conduct, the updates of the member policy, and the increase of membership fees.

There was considerable discussion on who is responsible to report any updates from the MDA Board (Executive Officer / Chair). The consensus was that it is up to each individual Region 6 member to take initiative to read Board minutes and, if have any concerns, to advise Chair of same.

Action arising:

- **Chair:** To ask the CEO to report any updates re MDA policy to the region at the next meeting (and beyond), not only refer to report on MDA webpage.

10. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- Friday, 13 December 2019 – Region 6 Ordinary Meeting, Rural City of Murray Bridge (10am – 2 pm).
- Friday, 14 February 2020 – Region 6 Ordinary Meeting, Alexandrina Council, Goolwa (10am – 2 pm).

11. CLOSE

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Coorong District 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	Monika Rhodes	Alexandrina		
Council Representatives	Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Stephen Packer as proxy for Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Tracey Strugnell	Coorong District		
	Councillor Miles Hannemann	Tatiara District		
	Councillor Vern Leng	Coorong District		
	Councillor Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District		
	Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina		
	Councillor Michael Scott	Alexandrina		
	Marilyn Henderson	Victor Harbor		
	Jason Taylor	Southern Mallee District		
Private Members	Keith Loeser			
	Julie Barrie			
	Frank Tuckwell			
	Bruce Brooks			