



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 5 Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Monday 13 December 2021

Commencing 10.10am at the District Council of Loxton Waikerie
& via Zoom Video Conferencing

1. **COMMENCEMENT** The Meeting commenced at 10.10am

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Cr Peter Raison opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Country

3. **ATTENDANCE**

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|--|
| Present: | Cr Peter Raison | Mid Murray Council |
| | Cr Jeff Hall | Mid Murray Council |
| | Cr Peter Walker | District Council of Loxton Waikerie (via zoom) |
| | Cr Margaret Howie | Renmark Paringa Council |
| | Cr Peter Hunter | Renmark Paringa Council |
| | Mark Lamb | Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association (via Zoom) |
| | Tim Phillips | Communications & Engagement Officer, Murray Darling Association (via Zoom) |
| | Tim Smythe | CEO, Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association |
| | Deana Mildren | Murray Darling Authority (via Zoom) |

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apologies: | Cr Andrew Kassebaum | Berri Barmera Council |
| | Cr Mike Fuller | Berri Barmera Council |
| | Cr Kym Webber | District Council of Loxton Waikerie |
| | Mayor Neil Martinson | Renmark Paringa Council |

Moved Cr Hall

That the Apologies received for the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on the 13 December 2021 be received.

Seconded Cr Walker

CARRIED

4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

5. MINUTES

Moved Cr Hall

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on the 26 October 2020 and 13 September 2021 are a true and accurate record of the meetings.

Seconded Cr Howie

CARRIED

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Water Position Statement Update

Tim Smythe, Chief Executive Officer, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) provided the following update:

- Grant application has been successful, waiting for the Federal Government to provide the funding deed.
- Discussed setting up the Water Position Working Group – Terms of Reference, Project Purpose & Project Position.
- Paper will require periodically review as things change.
- Consultants Jacobs have been chosen as MRLGA's preferred supplier, contract will be signed soon. Provided a summary of Jacobs proposal and what can be expected from them as the development of the Water Position Paper progresses.
- Water Position Paper timelines (5 stages), advised they are about 2 months behind. Project Inception Meeting (stage 1), Jacobs will meet with the working group on Wednesday 15 December 2021.
- Water Position Working Group Reps – Cr Howie asked who were on the working group, T Smythe advised, reps from Regions 5 and 6. Region 5 – Cr Raison (Chair), Cr Kassebaum and Cr Hall as proxy. Region 6 – not as clear, Cr Rebbeck, Tracy Strugnell (proxy) for Bridget Mather – Coorong District Council).
- In depth interviews with up to 12 stakeholders or groups of stakeholders will be undertaken – Cr Howie asked who will decide on the stakeholders, T Smythe advised that the MRLGA expected input from Regions 5 & 6 via representatives on the Working Group on who the stakeholders should be, 6 each from Region 5 and Region 6.
- Discussion took place on who the possible stakeholders interviewed should be.

From the discussions T Smythe noted the following possible stakeholders:

- Infrastructure level - Rosalie Auricht, Renmark Irrigation Trust, Greg McCarron, Central Irrigation Trust and Karen Martin, SA Murray Irrigators.
- Individual Irrigators – Ben Hasslet, Ian Mann and Yvonne Smith.
- Tourism – Tony Sharley, Murray River Walk, Ben Patten, Destination Riverland and Kelly Kuhn, Juggle House Experiences.

6.2 **Update on Murray-Darling Basin Authority Activities**

Deana Mildren – Senior Engagement Officer, Communications, Engagement and Strategy, Basin Strategy and Knowledge discussed the following:

Water Storages Overview

90% full – Whole Basin

83% full – Northern Basin

97% full – Lachlan

Menindee Lakes Overview

- Lakes are full, still expecting possibly up to 2,000 Gigalitres more water from the northern basin over the next couple of months.
- At the moment about 17,000 Megalitres a day is being released from the lakes down the Lower Darling.
- The Anabranch is now connected back to the Murray River for the first time in 4 years.
- With the water that's coming 68% of the flood plain in the lower darling will get a drink.

Hume Dam Update

- Hume Dam is full and being actively managed.
- At the moment releasing 12 gigalitres of water from the Hume Dam.

Sediment in the Barmah Choke

- Barmah Choke is a natural constraint in the Murray River that limits the amount of water that can be move through it at any particular time.
- Discussed current conditions and problems and possible solutions

MDA Regional Community Forums

- 6 forums have been established across the Basin, which includes one for the SA Murray Region.
- Try to get community understanding of what their local and regional values were and how we can gap fill what current condition monitoring is already occurring, what is missing.

Webinars

- Hosted a series of webinars, can be access on the MDBA's website

7. REPORTS

CEO's current report was tabled at the meeting and noted as read.

Cr Raison introduce Mark Lamb the new CEO of the Murray Darling Association

- Cr Raison and Cr Hunter acknowledged Emma Bradbury's commitment and efforts to the Murray Darling Association and wish her all the best for the future.
- Cr Raison requested that Mark pass on a big thank you to Emma from Region 5 for everything she has done for Region 5 and the organization.

M Lamb discussed the following:

- The lease for the Murray Darling Association offices expires this week. Looking to relocate the office in the Albury Wodonga region, have discussed this with the Albury City Council, they are looking to accommodate the Murray Darling Association within the Council chambers in Albury
- Looking at new ways of getting funding and bringing in new revenue streams.
- Stakeholder Engagements – met with Ministers both State and Federal and key Bureaucrats regarding the Murray Darling Association, Water compliance and right across the board. Also trying to get support from Politicians for some of the proposals that the Murray Darling Association has put up.
- Revive the leadership program, rolling it out in the New Year right down the Murray
- Gave a rundown on his past experience and what he hopes to achieve for the Murray Darling Association.

8. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be the AGM, to be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at the Mid Murray Council offices and via zoom.

Cr Hunter advised that T Smythe is leaving the Murraylands Riverland LGA, thanked Tim for his support and work.

9. CLOSURE

11.14am The Chair declared the meeting closed.

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks the District Council of Loxton Waikerie for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 5.