



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary Meeting of the Board

Friday 12 February 2021, 1:00pm

Location: Inverell Shire Council
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REGION 11 –GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME

1.1 Present

Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council
Andrew Gale	Southern Downs Regional Council
Cr Greg Sauer	Tenterfield Shire Council
Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire council
Peter Petty	Tenterfield Shire Council
Lawrence Springborg	Goondiwindi Regional Council
Rob McKenzie	GRC (observer)
Jane Humphries	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (observer)
Annabelle Guest	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association

1.2 Apologies

Mayor Paul McVeigh	Western Downs Regional Council
Andrew Johns	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr Dough Hawkins	Liverpool Plains Shire Council

MOTION: That the apologies are accepted and noted.

G Sawyer / F Young

CARRIED

Cr Kate Dight from Inverell Shire Council provided a welcome and acknowledgement of country.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Confirmation of minutes

Previous meeting – 13 November 2020

CEO's Note: Minutes were not confirmed.

3. REPORTS

3.1 CEO's report

CEO provided a report, based on the delegates report which has been circulated for tabling at council which included:

- National Conference – registration website has been launched and commended the staff for their great work. The conference will be an exciting event based on the connectivity of flows, and connectivity of water to environment, community, economy and sustainability. A study

tour to Menindee Lakes will also be provided to increase awareness of the current issues. All members were encouraged to register.

- Delegates report – The monthly delegates report provides a snapshot of key announcements, board meeting highlights and region meeting minutes, which is all important information for delegates and member councils. The report also included the board’s resolution to maintain membership fees at the same price as last year for the four categories of membership. The proposed name change may change these categories.
- Succession planning – Delegates were informed that CEO has notified the board that she will be finishing up in her role as CEO following the MDA 77th National Conference.

3.2 MDA Board Meeting

A summary of the previous board meeting was requested and provided by the CEO, which included discussion of floodplain harvesting submission and consultation on NSW water reform, with the board resolving to write to the NSW government on this issue.

The Basin Communities Leadership Program workshops for northern communities will be held in March / April 2021, with the session in Collarenebri occurring on 8 and 9 of April 2021.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Regional Boundary Review - Engagement with local government regional peaks and RDs

There has not been any further feedback from Region 11 regarding the Regional Boundary Review since the previous meeting.

The CEO emphasised that the regional boundary review is an opportunity for the MDA to better align and partner with regional organisations like BROCC, to increase opportunities for councils to participate in MDA meetings.

The committee agreed that the alignment with JO’s and ROC’s seemed logical and a more efficient sharing of resources.

MOTION: That the Murray Darling Association consider in the current regional boundary review that distribution should align with joint organisations and regional organisation of councils through the states that make up the Basin.

J Chaffey / F Young

CARRIED

4.2 MDA Regional Water Security Position Statements

Members discussed the development of regional water security position statements across the regions including the relationship with JOs/BROCCS to ensure that work is not duplicated or done in silos, as well as the importance of an inclusive consultation process.

4.3 Proposed MDA Name Change Consultation

The CEO provided an update on the proposed MDA name change consultation that was a resolution from the 2019 National Conference. The board will consider all feedback received prior to progressing the matter further.

5. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

5.1 2020 Date and location confirmed -Wentworth 17-19 May 2021

No discussion.

5.2 Motions to National Conference

Delegates discussed potential motions to put forward for this year’s conference.

MOTION: That Region 11 endorse the proposed MDA name-change.

G Sauer / F Young

CARRIED

ACTION: Motion to be prepared by head office.

The CEO reiterated that motions are a really important opportunity for regional issues to be elevated.

Clarification was sought on the closing date for motions and whether there would be an opportunity to have another region meeting before motions needed to be submitted. The Chair advised that submissions for motions close 12 of April 2021, and that it would be unlikely that another meeting would be held before then.

5.3 Annual Report – R11 contribution

No discussion.

5.4 Speakers and Sponsors

No discussion.

5.5 National Conference bid 2022

The CEO noted the national conference bid by Region 11, and Gunnedah Shire Council. Balonne Shire Council CEO advised he will organise a letter of support from Balonne Shire Council.

6. PRESENTATION

6.1 Annabelle Guest – MDBA Update

6.2 Jane Humphries – Local Engagement Officer, Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment

7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil.

8. MEETING CLOSE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2:40pm.