



Murray Darling Association Inc.

www.mda.asn.au

ABN: 64 636 490 493

Region 5 Chairperson
Cr Mike Fuller
crfuller@bbc.sa.gov.au
0417 669 804

Region 5 Secretary
Kelvin Goldstone – Mid Murray Council
kgoldstone@mid-murray.sa.gov.au
8564 6020

Minutes

Region 5 - Ordinary Meeting

Renmark Paringa Council Offices
61 18th Street, Renmark

Monday 1 December, 2014 commencing at 10.01am

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr Mike Fuller (Chairperson Region 5)	Berri Barmera Council
Cr Mark Ward	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Cr Jack Gibb	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr Kevin Myers	Mid Murray Council
Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council
Trevor Loxton	Renmark Paringa Member
Malcolm Wilksch (from 10.27am)	Berri Barmera Member
Kelvin Goldstone (Secretary)	Mid Murray Council
Melissa Marschall (Minute Secretary)	Mid Murray Council

Presenters

Michelle Campbell	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
Ryan Breen	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
Brian Grogan	Murray Darling Foundation Member
Helen Grogan	Murray Darling Foundation Member
Anne Daw	Environmental Investigator
Gil Daw	

1.2 Apologies

Cr Judy Harris	Region 4, Mildura
Tim Whetstone MP	Member for Chaffey

2. WELCOME

Cr Mike Fuller, Chairperson Region 5 and representing Berri Barmera Council, welcomed all in attendance.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGION 5 MEETING

Cr Jack Gibb moved that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2014 be taken as read and confirmed.
Seconded Cr Mark Ward.

CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS REGION 5 MEETING

Nil.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Cr Mike Fuller, Chairperson Region 5

Procedural Matters

The Chairperson advised members of the need to confirm procedural matters with regard to the role of the Secretary and the provision of information to members.

Cr Peter Raison moved that Region 5 remain an individual body and maintain it's autonomy with the role of the Secretary being provided by Mid Murray Council. Distribution of information to members to be undertaken by the Secretary.
Seconded Cr Mark Ward.

CARRIED.

2014 National Conference/AGM

The Chairperson advised members that the 2014 National Conference/AGM was an outstanding success and an excellent conference.

5.2 Emma Bradbury, Chief Executive Officer Murray Darling Association - Nil

6. STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION

6.1 Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Ryan Breen and Michelle Campbell

10.09 AM

Ryan Breen and Michelle Campbell, Local Engagement Officers of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, gave a presentation on Commonwealth Water Assets.

Michelle is based at the Berri Office and is the local connection between Canberra and the region. Michelle is interested in hearing about any environmental water projects and wetlands that need water.

Ryan provided an overview of the Commonwealth Water Assets including the following:-

- National and State assets
- Risk management – future dry periods, use, carry over and trade
- Environmental outcomes – 1 year to 10years
- Trade and sales
- Local government and community engagement.

6. STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION CONT'D

6.1 Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Ryan Breen and Michelle Campbell cont'd

10.27 AM Malcolm Wilksch entered the meeting.

Discussion ensued around the table on the following matters:-

- Murray Darling Foundation Waterbank
- Memorandum of Understanding with Murray Darling Foundation and the Commonwealth Water Holder - to be progressed in 2015
- Basin Plan – revised every couple of years, local government needs to be a formal stakeholder.
- Native fish.

The Chairperson thanked Ryan and Michelle for their attendance.

11.20 AM

Ryan Breen and Michelle Campbell left the meeting.

6.2 Murray Darling Foundation Member – Brian Grogan

11.20 AM

Brian Grogan, Murray Darling Foundation Member, addressed the meeting.

Brian advised that the Foundation provides a travelling bursary which is sponsored by McArthur Management although in the six years that the bursary has been offered not one application has been received from South Australia. A travelling bursary, currently sponsored by Russell Kennedy Solicitors, will cease. The Foundation is currently looking for a new sponsor. The bursary is now available for participants throughout the whole Basin. To date no applications have been received from South Australia. Brian will forward information to Mike Fuller.

Brian also advised that the Foundation has Awards (Max Schmidt, Jack Seekamp, Les Hill) available that are presented at the National Conference. Region 5 should get projects happening to enable some localised Awards to be presented.

Resolved that the matter of localised Awards be tabled at the next meeting.

The Chairperson thanked Brian for his attendance.

11.35 AM

Brian Grogan returned to the gallery.

6.3 Environmental Investigator, Anne Daw – Coal Seam Gas Exploration, Another Perspective

11.35 AM

Anne Daw, Environmental Investigator, gave a presentation on coal seam gas exploration, another perspective. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

6. STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION CONT'D

6.3 Environmental Investigator, Anne Daw – Coal Seam Gas Exploration, Another Perspective cont'd

Anne provided members with information on the following:-

- Unconventional gas and coal seam gas
- Fracking
- Chemical levels
- Round table discussion – Anne to keep in touch with Mike Fuller about Region 5 involvement.

Resolved that the following motion from the Murray Darling Association Annual General Meeting held on 14 October 2014 be included in the minutes:-

Motion 7

“That the Murray Darling Association adopts, as policy, the following statements regarding Unconventional Gas.

Definition: *Unconventional Gas is found in highly compact rock or coal beds and requires a specific set of production techniques.*

“That the Murray Darling Association:

- a. Will seek to have a moratorium placed on any further Unconventional Gas activity in any Basin that may be interconnected with the Murray Darling Basin on valuable arable land and until a solution is agreed upon of how to avoid salt mobilization.*
- b. Will oppose the mining and exploration of Unconventional Gas, including the practice of fracking, except where adequate guarantees based in science can demonstrate that there will be no adverse impact on the aquifers and ground water storage environment and on the quality of water contained in those aquifers and ground water storages.*
- c. Will always be focused on the environment and local communities in pursuing this policy.*
- d. Affirms that agricultural land is a vital and important asset and must be protected from any activities that compromises its productive capacities.*
- e. Affirms that ground water is a vital and important asset and must be protected from any activity that might compromise its quality.”*

Consolidated submission from Region 2

Des Bilske/Trina Thomson

Carried

The Chairperson thanked Anne for her presentation.

12.15 PM

Anne Daw returned to the gallery.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Letters to the Editor in the Murray Pioneer regarding water sharing in the Murray Darling Basin

Cr Jack Gibb moved that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.
Seconded Cr Peter Raison.

CARRIED.

8. NEXT MEETING

To be held at the District Council of Loxton Waikerie, Strangman Road, Waikerie on Monday, 2 March 2015, commencing at 10.00am.

9. CLOSE

12.20 PM The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

.....
DATE

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
Renmark Paranga Council for hosting this meeting of Region 5*