



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 5

www.mda.asn.au ABN: 64 636 490 493

Chairperson:
Peter Hunter

Hosting Council:
Renmark Paringa Council

Ph: 0447 177 341

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Minutes

Region 5 - Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 27 September commencing at 10.00am,
at Morgan Community Hub,
Eighth Street, Morgan.

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council
Cr Adriaan Sakko	Mid Murray Council
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri Barmera Council
Cr Jack Gibb	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr Allan Maddocks	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council - Chair
Peter Smith - OAM	Private Member
Michelle Campbell	Commonwealth Environmental Water Officer (CEWO)
Naomi Prunckun	EO - Renmark Paringa Council
Sandy Edmonds	Administration Support – Renmark Paringa Council
Emma Bradbury	MDA CEO – Via phone link

1.2 Apologies:

Neil Martinson	Mayor, Renmark Paringa Council
Stephan Knoll MP	Member for Schubert
Cr Mark Ward	Loxton Waikerie Council

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declaration – Material / Actual / Perceived – Nil

2. WELCOME

10.10am – 10.40am

Our guest, Michelle Campbell, who is the Commonwealth Environmental Water Officer (CEWO), shared information relevant to water management locally and across the basin.

Topics covered included:

- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder Role
- Rules / Groups involved
- Environmental flows; Regulations; Releases
- Importance of Menindee Lakes, Darling and Anabranch
- Influence of CEWH and wet and dry years

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Peter Smith

That the minutes of previous meeting of the MDA Region 5 held on the 6th July, 2017 be accepted as a true & correct summary of the meeting.

Seconded: Cr Peter Raison

Agreed

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- 4.1 Monique White, Engagement Officer, Murray Bridge
ACTION: Cr Hunter to invite Monique White to our December 11th 2017 Meeting

5. MDA CEO REPORT – Emma Bradbury

10.45am – 11.05am

5.1 Meeting Papers – 2017 AGM Summary for discussion

- 10 Motions to be discussed
- Process to submit/discuss to be refined
- Spoke to each motion providing brief description

5.2 Report - 2016 AGM Papers and Actions

- 18 Motions
- Motions timely to 2017 AGM to support actions from the board
 - Blue Green Algae
 - Connector – Lake Albert
 - Care Control
 - Senate Select Committee

5.3 Current Actions

- Requested a seat on Ministerial Council; Officials Committee. Request denied but are other options are being chased
- MDBA and MDA Links expanded
- CEO and Chair and Presentations/Activities summary
- MDA Contribution to Ernst and Young report
- Visit to Minister Hunter and Cooperation

Action: Emma Bradbury to be invited to every second meeting.

6. MDA NATIONAL AGM UPDATE

6.1 Conference Update

- Conference program given to members to take back and distribute
- Volunteer list distributed – 48 noted

ACTIONS: - Noted that the report be received.
- Peter Hunter to follow up that Volunteers to be acknowledged are added to the 2017 AGM Agenda

6.2 Registration for the 73rd National Conference and AGM

- Importance of encouraging attendance – council staff & interested Elected members / community members

7. PLANNING & COORDINATION

Moved: Peter Smith

- 7.1 The MDA calls for equal representation on the Murray Darling Basin Authority. As the Murray Darling Basin is owned by and belongs to all Australians' we believe all States and Territories should have a chair at the MDBA table.

Seconded: Nil

Motion Lapsed

7.2 MOTION WITHDRAWN

7.3 Frequency / Location / Timing of Region 5 Meetings

- Future Meetings
 - Monday, 11th December 2017 - Renmark – 9.30 for 10am start
 - Monday, 19th March 2018 – Berri Council – 9.30 for 10am start
 - CEO Phone Link to occur at every second meeting
 - Guest Speakers – Monique White to be invited to attend December 11 meeting at Renmark Paringa Community and Civic Centre, Renmark.
- 11th to 13th October – AGM & Conference in Renmark

7.4 Meeting Papers – Our Plan, Our Future.

Item 2 - Special Motion

Amendment to the Constitution I

Motion 1A: That Part 6, 17(6) of the Constitution be amended as detailed above.

Should Motion 1A carry, the following procedural motion is required.

Motion 1B: That the MDA validates the 73rd Annual General Meeting, and accepts the following business and motions in accordance with the revised constitution.

AGREED

Item 6 - Motions on Notice

6.1 Amendment to the Constitution II

Motion: That the Constitution be amended as follows

- a) Part 3, item 6 – remove the words **member council** and insert the words **local government entity**, and
- b) Part 11, item 38 – add the following subclauses
 - a. The amendment must be lodged with the executive six weeks prior to the MDA Meeting
 - b. The amendment must be listed as a motion and published in the agenda for the MDA Meeting.

AGREED

6.2 Meaningful inclusion of Local Government in Murray-Darling Basin related decision making processes.

Motion: That the Murray Darling Association:

- a. Nomination the National President of the Murray Darling Association on the Basin Community Committee; and
- b. Continue to pursue options for local government, as the third level of government in Australia to be formally included in the decision-making processes that underpin the continuing implementation of the Basin Plan.

AGREED

6.3 Water Management and compliance in the Basin

Motion: That the Murray Darling Association:

- a) Acknowledge the concurrent inquiries underway.
- b) Maintain it's call for an independent Public Inquiry with the ability to compel witnesses to give evidence.
- c) Calls for consistent monitoring and compliance rules across all Basin states.
- d) Note that public confidence is essential to the effective implementation of the Basin Plan.

AGREED

- 6.4 Independent auditing of MDBA compliance regime (Region 7)
Motion: That the Murray Darling Association
- a) Note the economic importance of river related tourism to Basin communities.
 - b) Pursue opportunities for continuing collaboration with the relevant authorities to maximise multiple benefits of flows, timing and available resources
 - c) Explore strategies for enhanced communications and information sharing in relation to river heights.
 - d) Note of thanks to all parties for their work in coordinating flows to maintain river heights Easter 17.

AGREED

- 6.5 River flows for tourism (Region 1)
Motion: That the Murray Darling Association
- a) Note the economic importance of river related tourism to Basin communities.
 - b) Pursue opportunities for continuing collaboration with the relevant authorities to maximise multiple benefits of flows, timing and available resources
 - c) Explore strategies for enhanced communications and information sharing in relation to river heights.

Note of thanks to all parties for their work in coordinating flows to maintain river heights Easter 17

AGREED

- 6.6 The availability of timely flood information (Region 1)
Motion: That the Murray Darling Association Advocate for the formation of a working group comprising the MDBA Manager of River Operations, Councils, SES and other relevant parties in Murray Darling Association Region 1 to develop a comprehensive and reliable strategy to inform local residents, businesses, emergency management groups and other affected parties of the actions and outcomes to be expected as a result of management actions during times of flood downstream of Lake Hume.
- ACTION:** Cr Hunter make comment to the board on the usage of the term 'flood' and the impact it has on the community; recommendation for use of the word 'high river or high water'

AGREED

- 6.7 Local government involvement in the development of Water Resource Plans (Region 4)
Motion: That the Murray Darling Association call on the MDBA and the States to ensure local government has a key role in providing local knowledge to inform the development of the Commonwealth Water Resource Plans.

AGREED

- 6.8 Management of the Menindee Lakes (Region 4)
Motion: That the MDA ask the NSW Government to provide a detailed brief on:
- a) The storage capacity and evaporation losses of the Menindee Lakes;

- b) The methodology for calculating, monitoring and reporting on the storage capacity and evaporation losses of the Menindee Lakes;
- c) How do these volumes contribute to the Sustainable Diversion Limit;
- d) How will the SDL Adjustment Mechanism project for Menindee Lakes work;
- e) The Menindee Lakes Water Saving Plan;
- f) Will 6000 megalitres per day again be released from the Menindee Lakes to ensure downstream supply, and if so what will be the impact on local communities.

AGREED

- 6.9 Moratorium on the Wentworth to Broken Hill Pipeline (Region 4)
 Motion: That the MDA calls on the NSW Govt to place an immediate moratorium on the construction of the Wentworth to Broken Hill pipeline and further calls for the immediate release of the business case that lead to the decision to construct the pipeline.

AGREED

- 6.10 Support for the Amendments to the Basin Plan following the Northern Basin Review. (Region 12)
Need briefing notes supplied
Action: Be aware of any notes that come out of future meetings in relation to 6.10

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 State MDA / LGA Forum – River Councils & Links with Other Regions – 20th September – verbal reports from those who attended & discussion
 Noted that it was a good meeting, although indecisive email re meeting time and location.
- 8.2 MR LGA Forum – 29th September, Murray Bridge
- 8.3 One River Proposal update – slide show as presented to at BIA / EPA Award presentation with Minister Mullighan. Further info at Murray Bridge Meeting on the 29th September in Murray Bridge.
- 8.4 Additional General Business
Action Peter Hunter to contact Regions 6 and request that their meeting minutes be shared with Region 5

9. NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday 11th December 2017 Time: 9:30 for 10am Location: Renmark

Room Booking / Morning Tea / Set Up & Preparation Responsibilities: Sandy Edmonds

10. CLOSE
 12.07pm

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