

# Murray Darling Association Inc.



## Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

Friday 15 June 2018 10am

### Venue

Mobilong Suite, Local Government Centre,  
2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge

## Minutes

### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1. Present

##### Voting Members:

Cr Vern Leng	Coorong District Council
Cr Frank Tuckwell	Alexandrina Council
Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Cr Julie Barrie	Coorong District Council
Clem Schubert	Rural City of Murray Bridge

##### Guests:

Vincent Cammell	Coorong District Council
Shen Mann	MDA-R6 Executive Officer
Tony Wilson	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Peter Wright	Coorong District Council
Peter Smith	MDA Region 5

#### 1.2. Apologies:

Adrian Pederick	Member for Hammond
Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council
Cr Featherston	Alexandrina Council
Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina Council
Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge

### 2. WELCOME

2.1. **Housekeeping: Fire safety, toilets & catering.**

2.2. **Conflict of interest: Material / Actual / Perceived**

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Attachment A

#### Resolution

That the minutes of the previous meeting of MDA-R6 held on 27 April 2018 be accepted as a true & correct summary of those meetings.

**Moved Vern Leng – Seconded Frank Tuckwell  
CARRIED**

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

#### 5. STANDING ITEMS

##### 5.1. Action List

Attachment A

Outstanding items from the Action List were reviewed. A revised Action List is attached to these minutes.

##### 5.2. CEO's Report

Emma Bradbury

Nil – Emma unavailable.

##### 5.3. Chair's Report

Acting Chair, Cr Barrie

Julie noted that Coorong District Council has received letters from Tony Pasin MP, Hon David Littleproud MP and Hon Tim Whetstone MP in response to concerns regarding the National Carp Control Plan. Shen had previously circulated the response from NCCP to Dr Paula Reynolds of Lincolnshire Fish Health via email to MDA-R6 members dated 10May 2018.

##### 5.4. Executive Officer Report

Shen Mann

- Actioned items from 27 April 2018 meeting of Region 6
- Provided advice to MDA-R6 re Labor/Coalition deal on Greens disallowance motion
- Invited River Lakes & Coorong Action Group to consider membership of Region 6
- Invited Southern Fisherman's Association to consider membership of Region 6
- Organisation of South Australian inter-regional meeting
- Provided content for May edition of MDA Newsletter
- Supported meeting of Region 6 Executive – 1 June 2018
- Actioned items from 1 June 2018 meeting of Region 6 Executive
- Attended State Government Coorong Summit – 5 June 2018
- Promoted attendance at Coorong Summit on Alexandrina website & Facebook
- Liaised with Region 6 communications officers re marketing brand for Region 6
- Provided advice re suggested MDA-R6 advocacy response to Min-Co meeting on 8 June 2018

ACTION: Shen to brief Alexandrina Council on role and activities of MDA at August 2018 Council Briefing at request of Cr Stewart.

ACTION: Shen to liaise with Heather Barclay re dates for briefing Rural City of Murray Bridge on role and activities of the MDA.

ACTION: Shen to brief Coorong District Council on role and activities of MDA after LG elections i.e. December 2018/January 2019.

##### 5.5. Media Comments

All

ACTION: Shen to draft Letter to Editor on behalf of Mayors from Alexandrina, CDC and RCMB and submit to Advertiser for publication re outcomes of June 2018 Min-Co meeting.

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.1. MDA National Conference - Delegates

The Murray Darling Association 74<sup>th</sup> National Conference & AGM is being held in Leeton, NSW from 29-31 August 2018.

Region 6 Member Councils have each appointed the following Member Council Delegates to attend, participate and vote at the AGM:

- Alexandrina – 2 Member Council Delegates – Cr Featherston and Cr Tuckwell (proxy Cr Scott)
- Coorong – 1 Member Council Delegate – Cr Barrie
- Murray Bridge – 2 Member Council Delegates – Cr Schubert and Heather Barclay
- Tatiara – 1 Member Council Delegate – Cr Hannemann

Pursuant to clause 16(10) of the MDA Constitution, Region 6 is also entitled to appoint three additional Regional Delegates to attend and vote at the MDA AGM. Shen Mann (Executive Officer), Glenn Rappensberg (Alexandrina Council) and Cr Vern Leng (Coorong District Council) have nominated themselves for appointment as Regional Delegates. Further nominations for Regional Delegates will be sought from the floor, with preference given to any private members who wish to attend the AGM.

#### Resolution:

That pursuant to Clause 16(10) of the MDA Constitution, Shen Mann, Glenn Rappensberg and Vern Leng be appointed by Region 6 as Regional Delegates to attend and vote at the 2018 MDA AGM in Leeton.

**Moved Heather Barclay – Seconded Clem Schubert  
CARRIED**

**Note: Shen has since liaised with Emma Bradbury re Clause 16(10) of the MDA Constitution. Emma has advised that Councillors/Council Officers of Member Councils cannot be appointed as Regional Delegates which means the motion above is invalid. Accordingly, Region 6 will not have any Regional Delegates eligible to vote at the 2018 AGM.**

### 6.2. MDA National Conference – Motions

The Region 6 Executive proposed a motion regarding climate change adaptation for the Coorong and Lower Lakes whilst Cr Leng proposed two motions, one in relation to regional boundary review and a second in relation to upgrading weir infrastructure.

#### Resolution:

That MDA Region 6 support the following motion being put to the 2018 MDA AGM:

*That the Murray Darling Association calls on the South Australian and Federal Governments to undertake a detailed climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan for the Coorong and Lower Lakes, which should include but not necessarily be limited to:*

- a) modelling the impacts of varying levels of sea level rise and river flows on the functioning of the Coorong and Lower Lakes system;*
- b) a review of existing literature and commissioning of further modelling and research to evaluate the likely social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts of possible adaptation responses; and*

- c) *delivery of a supporting community education and engagement strategy in order to facilitate informed community discussion about a preferred climate change adaptation pathway for the Coorong and Lower Lakes system.*

**Moved Vern Leng, Seconded Clem Schubert  
CARRIED**

Resolution:

That MDA Region 6 support the following motion being put to the 2018 MDA AGM:

*Noting the 2016 AGM motion to review regional boundaries and the outcomes of the MDA planning workshop held in February 2017, that the Murray Darling Association, through its Regions and Member Councils, initiate proceedings towards redefining regional boundaries so as to entice greater membership and promote active engagement by reducing travel distance to regional meetings.*

**Moved Vern Leng, Seconded Clem Schubert  
CARRIED**

Resolution:

That MDA Region 6 support the following motion being put to the 2018 MDA AGM:

*Noting that the majority of River Murray weirs are of a “stop-log” design which spill surface water from the high side of the weir, that the Murray Darling Association call on the Basin States and Federal Government to investigate the benefits of upgrading outdated River Murray weir infrastructure so as to enable improved scouring of the river bottom to reduce build-up of salinity, heavy metals and debris. Noting that salinities are highest in the Lower Murray, such investigations should commence with the oldest pool weir at Blanchetown.*

**Moved Clem Schubert, Seconded Vern Leng  
CARRIED**

Cr Schubert expressed concern about the lack of action taken by the MDA in relation to previous AGM motions regarding the need for Basin States to proactively investigate alternative sources of water (such as desalination and recycled wastewater) in order to supplement reduced flows within the Murray-Darling Basin.

Resolution:

That the MDA-R6 Executive advocate at Board level for specific action to be taken to progress clause (b) of Motion 5.13 from the 2016 Dubbo Conference with respect to the investigation and development of secure alternative water sources to supplement the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin system. These alternative water sources could include desalination and recycled wastewater.

**Moved Vern Leng, Seconded Frank Tuckwell  
CARRIED**

**6.3. South Australian Inter-Regional Meeting**

Shen Mann

A joint meeting of Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8 has been scheduled for 10am – 2.30pm on Tuesday 17 July 2018 at LGA House. The purpose of the meeting is to share and discuss matters of state significance in the management of Basin water resources. The Hon David Speirs MP, Minister for Environment and Water, will attend as guest speaker along with the MDBA’s Acting Chief Economist Phil Townsend and Chairman Neil Andrew. A speaker on salinity management has not been secured.

ACTION: Secure a speaker on salinity management for an upcoming ordinary meeting of MDA-R6.

#### 6.4. The Coorong Summit

Shen Mann

On Tuesday 5 June 2018 the State Government hosted The Coorong Summit at the behest of the new Minister for the Environment, David Speirs. MDA-R6 was represented by Shen Mann (Executive Officer) and Mayor Neville Jaensch, Deputy Mayor Sharon Bland, Cr Barrie and Cr Leng of Coorong District Council.

The Summit is part of a broader push by the Minister to attract Federal Government investment into the region to address the ongoing degradation of the Coorong and in particular the poor health of the South Lagoon. The Summit gathered together nearly 100 stakeholders including scientists, policy experts, traditional owners, industry and community representatives to explore a long-term vision for the South Lagoon and to identify priority actions to improve its health.

Key themes to emerge from the Summit were:

- the importance of managing the Coorong, Lakes & Murray Mouth region as an integrated system;
- secure funding for long-term monitoring is absolutely critical – science first, policy second;
- need for research & modelling to better understand:
  - nutrient cycle and interaction between salinity/nutrients and algae/ruppia;
  - likely impacts of climate change and the costs/benefits of potential adaptation options;
  - and
- elevating profile of Coorong via education/engagement/tourism.

The outcomes of the Summit will be combined with the findings of an expert scientific panel into a draft report which will be released for public consultation in the coming months. The final report will then be transformed into a business case for Federal Government investment by September 2018.

**ACTION:** That Coorong District Council (with support from the MDA-R6 Executive Officer) liaise with State Government to ensure that local communities are appropriately and comprehensively engaged in developing the recommended actions for improving the health of the Coorong arising out of the Coorong Summit.

#### 6.5. Strategic Directions

Shen Mann

The current priority is implementation of the key actions from the Engagement Strategy which includes organising the inter-regional meeting, developing local marketing material for Region 6, recruiting new members and supporting our regional community to engage with the State Government with respect to the actions needed to restore the health of the Coorong and in particular, the South Lagoon. The next priority is researching and developing a position for Region 6 (which can inform the position of MDA Inc) on the revised criteria to be developed for the neutral socio-economic impact test which will underpin recovery of the 450GL upwater pursuant to the Basin Plan. The outcomes of the inter-regional meeting will help inform this position.

#### 6.6. Coorong Dire Straits Tour Proposal

Vern Leng

A local community member has developed a proposal for a 2-day community event to raise awareness about the plight of the Coorong. Cr Leng provided an update in his capacity as a committee member of the River Lakes & Coorong Action Group.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

Date: 17 August 2018

Time: 9.30am for 10am start

Location: Large Meeting Room, Alexandrina Council, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa

**8. CLOSE**

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Rural City of Murray Bridge for their support in hosting this meeting of MDA Region 6.*