



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary Meeting of Region 6

11 June 2021

10:00 – 14:21

Alexandrina Council

Large Meeting Room

11 Cadell Street, Goolwa 5214

or

Join Zoom In

[Join meeting](#)

Meeting number 1652 25 2914

MEETING MINUTES – 11 June 2021

1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Cr. Melissa Rebbeck

2. ATTENDANCE

Cr Melissa Rebbeck (Chair)	Alexandrina
Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina
Cr. Michael Scott ASM OAM	Alexandrina
Bridget Mather (virtual)	Coorong Regional Council (CDC)
Cr Marilyn Henderson	City of Victor Harbor (CVH)
Stephen Packer	Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)
Frank Tuckwell	Individual Member

2.1. GUESTS

Nathan Bicknell	EO MDA Region 6
Michael Colagrossi	Department of Environment and Water (DEW)
Ken Scott	MDBA

2.2. APOLOGIES

Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge
GM Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Cr. Vern Leng	Coorong Regional Council (CDC)
Cr. Brenton Qualmann	Coorong Regional Council (CDC)
Warren Jacobs	Individual Member
CEO Emma Bradbury	MDA Inc.
Deana Mildren	MDBA

2.3. DECLARATIONS

Nil

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion: that the minutes of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 6 - Ordinary Meeting held 5 February 2021 be approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chair's Report - Cr Rebbeck (Alexandrina)

The Chair spoke to the report as tabled ([attachment 1](#)).

Discussion: the Chair congratulated the MDA and Wentworth Shire Council on an excellent national conference (2021) and AGM. Highlights, including; CSIRO, MILDREN, Renmark Irrigation Trust, and the One Basin CRC Bid. Our motions were well received at the AGM and will ensure the region's objectives are well represented by the MDA moving forward.

The Chair also spoke highly of the recent Karnangk (Coorong) tour with local Ngarrindjeri elders and the Coorong Lower Lakes Murray Mouth, Community Advisory Panel (CLLMM CAP) members. The connection to country and knowledge was a profound combination. Visiting Parnka Point, junction, highlighted the plight of the Southern lagoon and should be considered for future field trips.

4.2 Member's Updates (verbal)

4.2.1 Bridget Mather (Coorong District Council)

- Reaffirmed the Chair's comments about the National Conference and AGM; and
- Noted the collegiate nature of the event and proceedings of the AGM.

4.2.2 Cr. Michael Scott ASM OAM (Alexandrina)

- Presentations by CSIRO highlighted a Climate future, rainfall and inflows looks pretty grim; and
- The Study Tour's commentary about the drought and fish-kills highlighted the fragility of the system and the need to take a Basin-wide approach; and
- Reiterated Bridget's comments about the collegiate nature of the event in comparison to previous years.

4.2.3 Stephen Packer (Rural City of Murray Bridge)

- The MDA National Conference was good all-round, the Fieldtrip to Menindee and most speakers were excellent;
- However, the Hon Susan Ley MP (Commonwealth Environment Minister) and the Hon Melinda-Jane Pavey MP (NSW Water Minister) were particularly disappointing; and
- Did not instil much confidence in delivering on the targets or timeframes of the Basin Plan.

4.2.4 CEO Glen Rappensberg (Alexandrina)

- Council is progressing its Carbon Natural Plan;
- Noting that Councils Corporate Carbon Footprint accounted for 1% of the Council region; and
- Climate adaption strategies in relation to our coastline and Coorong with the spectre of rising sea levels.

4.2.5 Cr Marilyn Henderson (The City of Victor Harbor) Nil

4.2.6 Mr. Frank Tuckwell (Individual member)

- With COVID restrictions easing, people are travelling again; and
- Involved in the Inland Rivers National Marathon Team, which helps to coordinate people wanting to travel Basin Rivers.

4.2.7 Nathan Bicknell (Region 6 EO)

- Attended the MDA (Wentworth) and MDBA (Griffith) conferences in consecutive months;
- Highlights of the MDBA Conference included:

- Prof. Rob Howden Director, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions – Climate Change;
- Rene Woods, MDBA Board Member - First Nations Water Management; and
- Visiting the Southern Cotton Gin and Dinner at the Malt House for the Conference dinner.

4.3 MDA CEO Report - Emma Bradbury

The Chair acknowledged that Emma was an apology (Annual leave). The April CEO report ([attachment 2](#)) was taken as read. The Basin Community Leadership Flyer for SA ([attachment 3](#)) was also tabled for noting.

Discussion:

- The upcoming Basin Leadership Program dates in SA and the region (July TBC);
- Members raised concern about apparent discontent in the ranks, the recent loss of Regions 8 Member Councils (and Chair), Board members and staff; and
- Members also raised concern about the MDA pursuing potentially controversial matters.

Action: the EO to enquire about the consultation process regarding any Boundary Realignment and discussion paper.

Motion: that Region 6 highlight concerns about the apparent loss of membership and urges the MDA Board to address the issue.

Cr. Michael Scott/Cr Henderson/Carried

11:00 The MDBA report was postponed and brought **General Business** forward.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 GUEST SPEAKER - Michael Colagrossi - Constraints Team Leader (DEW) ([attachment 4](#)).

Since the release of the MDBA's constraints management strategy, basin governments have undertaken pre-feasibility studies and produced business cases outlining the works and costs that will ease system constraints. This work includes exploring measures that would facilitate environmental flows, improve infrastructure, erosion control works and easement negotiation. Addressing these constraints will provide additional benefits for landowners during periods of higher flow.

Discussion:

- That constraints projects across the Basin were critical to increased environmental (overbank) flows as part of the Bain Plan Targets;
- DEW has been focused upon mapping river highs at up to 80,000G/d (below the 2016 Flood 95,000G/d) and related; government assets, landholders, and community constraints;
- The majority of which are upstream of Region 6, by the time high-flows get to the region, their effects are limited by the topography and managed via barrage releases; and
- Members noted that high lake levels can affect access between Milang and Langhorne Creek.

Noon: Lunch - CEO Bridget Mather departed the meeting.

Return to item **4. REPORTS**

4.4 Murray Darling Basin Authority - Ken Scott (Assistant Director, Groundwater Management SDL Accounting Program.

Ken thanked the members for the opportunity to engage with them face-to-face again (in Deana's absence) and spoke to the MDBA presentation as tabled ([attachment 5](#)).

Discussion:

- Community Science Forums (July 15) Region 6 members have expressed interest;
- Stowage levels improving across the Basin and outlook for 2021/22;
- Webinars (Northern Basin is next);
- First Nations ground water training Day (drill-core library); and
- Happy to provide a groundwater overview to the members at a subsequent meeting.

Motion: that the members receive the reports.

Cr. Melissa Rebbeck/Cr Marilyn Henderson/Carried

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 CORRESPONDENCE OUT

The notable correspondence out is summarised in table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Correspondence out.

Item	Recipient	Topic
5.1.1	The Hon Minister Speirs	Symposium Invitation
5.1.2	Chair MDBA	Symposium Invitation
5.1.3	Vickie Woodburn (MDBA)	Symposium Invitation
5.1.4	Adrian Pederick MP	Symposium Invitation
5.1.5	The Hon David Basham MP	Symposium Invitation
5.1.6	Rebekha Sharkie MP	Symposium Invitation
5.1.7	Tony Pasin MP	Symposium Invitation

Discussion: it was noted that due to a clash with the sitting of the SA parliament, the Minister's Office has been re-contacted regarding virtual attendance or alternate dates. Each of the invitation letters utilised the same template/wording as developed with the MDA.

5.2 CORRESPONDENCE IN

Nil

Motion: that the Members note the correspondence.

Cr Melissa Rebbeck/Cr. Marilyn Henderson/Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING

Members reviewed the MDA-R6 matters in progress from the previous Ordinary meetings and MDA-R6 matters in progress from the previous Executive Meeting as tabled:

Discussion:

6.1 The Draft Funding Memorandum for the Regional Co-ordination Officer position was deferred to the Executive Committee.

Action [5.3]: the EO to liaise with NAC regarding their appetite to provide a regular report (video link is available)

and or to arrange for the members of region 6 to undertake a field trip on country (as per the CLLMM CAP).

8. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & WORK PLAN

In November 2020, the Executive recommended carrying over the Strategic Directions and Work Plan (2020) into 2021. With a review following the outcomes of the Annual Stakeholder Symposium (the Symposium).

Discussion: Focused upon ways in which Region 6 can provide value to delegates to promote participation (given low numbers) and improve engagement of member councils:

- Revisit Communication Plan 2019;
- Consistent communication/messaging to member councils;
- 1/3 process and 2/3 presentations/debate;
- Get out in the field;
- Hold meetings in central locations (i.e. Coorong District Council);
- Encourage written reports from members (save time);
- Alexandria to explore hosting the MDA’s Leadership Program in Council Chambers; and
- Forward the flyer to member councils to distribute to emerging water leaders.

Action: the EO to provide member councils with a meeting summary with the Minutes and BCLP Flyer.

12:43 Cr. Michael Scott ASM OAM departed the meeting.

8.1 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The current scheduled of ordinary meetings is the second Friday of the month each quarter. We have received a request that the members consider an alternative week/day to a permanent clash.

Actions: that the EO pole the members to determine regarding a more suitable/day/week.

8.2 SYMPOSIUM WORKING GROUP

To support the delivery of the symposium, a working group meets monthly via WebEx, and when applicable, it is combined with a meeting of the Executive. The members noted the actions arising and the proposed event structure (table 2).

Discussion:

Focussed upon the event structure.

- The Symposium is proposed to be held at the Bridgeport Hotel – Murray Bridge, 13 October 2021(?),
- The program includes a networking event and fieldtrip as optional extras;
- As a not-for-profit event, the majority of the costs will be covered by registrations;
- A range of external funding sources is being sorted to offset registration costs; and
- The facilitator, schedule of speakers, and trade displays to be finalised this month.

Table 2. Proposed program for the MDA Region 6 Annual Stakeholder Symposium 2021

Date	Activity	Description	Registration (\$) Approx.
Tuesday 12 October	Interregional Meeting	Chairs of Regions (5, 6, and 7) to scope agenda items from members	
Wednesday 13 October	Symposium	Session themes (including but not limited to) Agriculture - Water-Use efficiency Environment - E Water Remediation Trade Displays and Delivery Partners (DEW/CEWO/DAWE/MDBA/SA Water)	\$74.00

Optional Extras			
Wednesday 13 October	Networking Event	Canapés and Drinks Vicki Woodburn MDBA (Executive Director Basin Strategy and Knowledge) possible keynote	\$78.00
Thursday 14 October	Field Trip	Barrages Tour and or Lawari Conservation Park (Hindmarsh Island), Farm-walk (Meningie or Coomandook). Limited numbers across the Barrages (24) will require prioritisation.	\$60.00

9. NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Meeting, 13 August 2021

Discussion: that Members present confirmed Coorong District Council (liaise with Bridget) as the next venue (central) and provided recommendations for agenda items and topics/speaker[s].

- Ground Water - Ken Scott (MDBA) and Steve Barnett, Principal Hydrogeologist (DEW)
- History of Mundoo Station - Collin Grundy (Member)
- Dead in the Water - Richard Beasley (Author)
- Goyder Institute - Kane Aldridge (GM)

10. CLOSE: 14:21

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks to the Alexandrina Council for its support in hosting this Ordinary meeting and video conference of Region 6.

Appendix 1. Murray Darling Association Region 6 – Membership 2021

2020/2021 REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP				
As of May 2021				
Position	Name	Council	Executive Member	Voting Member
Chair	Councillor Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council		
Executive Officer	Nathan Bicknell	Region 6		
Council Representatives	Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Stephen Packer (Proxy)	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	CEO Bridget Mather	Coorong District Council		
	Cr Vern Leng	Coorong District Council		
	Cr Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District Council		
	Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina Council		
	Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council		
	Cr Marilyn Henderson	Victor Harbor		
	Cr Miles Hannemann	Tatiara District Council		
	CEO Jason Taylor	Southern Mallee District Council		
Individual Member	Frank Tuckwell			
	Bruce Brooks			
	Adrian Pederick, MP JP			
	Colin Grundy			
	Warren Jacobs			
Life Member	Graham Camac			

Appendix 2. MDA Region 6 - Schedule of Meetings and Events for 2021/2022

Date	Event	Notes
5 February 2021	Executive AGM/Ordinary Meeting 1	Coorong District Council
26 February 2021	Motions Workshop	Rural City of Murray Bridge (to be confirmed out of session)
14 May	Pre Conference meeting	Virtual
17-19 May 2021	MDA National Conference	Wentworth Shire Council NSW
28 May 2021	Executive Meeting	Virtual
11 June 2021	Ordinary Meeting 2	Alexandrina Council
16 July	Executive Meeting	Virtual
13 August 2021	Ordinary Meeting 3	(Victor/Tatiara/Southern Mallee?) TBC
8 October	Executive Meeting	Virtual
12 October	Interregional Meeting	Bridgeport Hotel - Murray Bridge
13 October	Annual Symposium	Bridgeport Hotel - Murray Bridge
14 October	Barrage Tour /Farm Walk	TBC
12 November 2021	Ordinary Meeting 4	Murray Bridge
17 December	Executive Meeting	Virtual (TBC)
14 Jan 2022	AGM/Ordinary Meeting 1	Coorong District Council