



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 11 Meeting 11:08 am, Thursday 11 June, 2019 Gunnedah Shire Council (Via Zoom)

MINUTES – 11 June 2020

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr John Campbell - Chair	Gunnedah Shire Council
Emma Bradbury#	Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association
Cr Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council
Mr Andrew Johns	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Greg Sauer #	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Doug Hawkins #	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Annabelle Guest*#	Regional Engagement Officer, Murray-Darling Basin Authority

* Non-member– attendance by invitation

Attendance by teleconference

1.2 Apologies

Cr Cathy Redding	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Andrew Hope	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr Ian Woodcock	Walgett Shire Council
Cr Manuel Martinez	Walgett Shire Council
Cr Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr David Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr Peter Petty	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Don Forbes	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Philip O'Connor	Brewarrina Shire Council
Acting General Manager	Brewarrina Shire Council

Action: That the apologies be accepted

Move G Sauer/J Campbell

Carried

2. WELCOME – Meeting commenced at 11:08

Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country from Cr John Campbell

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES

Motion: That the minutes of the Region 11 Ordinary Meeting held on 20 February 2020 as typed and circulated, be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Action: **Move G Sauer/ A Guest** **Carried**

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chief Executive Officer

- As per online Report - [CEO Report](#)
- There has been some feedback from members regarding changes to region boundaries. MDA over the past 4 years has received movement by the members to move the Region boundaries. These are often difficult to change due to historical significance. Has now started to see the MDA is working well with LGA's and JO's. Those are footprints that work well and connect to Councils on local issues. MDA in the process of developing a strategy to go out to the Regions to the regions and commence the realignment of the boundaries according to the strategic alignments of the MDA. LGA/JO and RDA.
- No consistent model across the states that could be used to enable the realignment. More likely that a recommendation will go to the Board to consult with the regions over a one to two year period to create the best model for the regions.
- MDA pleased to announce that they have agreed to a collaborative relationship with CSIRO. This will enable the MDA to conduct projects in conjunction with CSIRO. Currently in discussion to collaborate on two preliminary projects.

5.2 MDA Board Meeting

- As per previous [Minutes](#)

5.3 MDBA Update – Annabelle Guest

- Since February the rainfall has continued and conditions have improved across the northern basin. Best cropping winter since 2016 and positivity across the community.
- Rainfall has eased conditions across the Basin with Menindee Lakes now 25% full. Critical water needs secured for stock and domestic use for the next 12 months.
- First Flush Independent Assessment – Northern Flows caused a lot of angst for irrigators, Flood Plain Harvesting embargo used for the first time.
- Water Resource Plans – 9 received and currently under assessment by the MDBA. However it is uncertain when accreditation will be given.

- Timeline process for the lodgment of the Water Resource Plans - Taken on Notice and Annabelle will report back.

Current Projects

- Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) accounting improvement strategy – program of continual improvement in the complex field of accounting for water use against the stipulations of the Basin Plan. Universal metering standards will aid compliance for all.
- Water for the Environment Research Program has been announced on Austender – projects from 2020 to 2024
- Northern Basin Toolkit – Progressing through Gwydir constraints project (feasibility of projects now underway)
- Flood Plain Harvesting also progressing (NSW issue)
- Next Minco (Ministerial Council) meeting is on 19 June. This is among the four Basin State Leaders and Federal water Minister
- Point 2 of Region 11 Climate Ready Statement – Option for a speaker at next meeting on Environmental water management in the Northern Basin (CEWO)
- Writing regional template snapshots over the past month. Have been asked to include any case studies on Water efficiency projects or water reform successes. Any information from the Region that could be provided to the MDBA for inclusion would be appreciated. Mayor Chaffey advised there are a few projects around the Region including planting at a local orchard which has enabled the planting of more crops. Also, farms around the region distributing water around their property via PVC pipes. However, there may not be available data on these projects. May be able to provide data on the re-use of domestic water shortly.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Motion submissions for the Murray Darling Association AGM

- No motions received or submitted for the MDA AGM. However, an extension for submissions has been granted until early August.
- CEO advised that Regions should think about what are the things wanting to be achieved for their Regions when making submissions. i.e Want to see greater consolation in the development of strategic plans.

Mr Johns left the meeting at 11:53

6.2 Regional submissions for the MDA Board Agenda

- One question will be submitted on behalf of Region 11 regarding Regional Water Strategies.

Motion: That Region 11 submit a motion to the MDA Board that the Board support our call to the New South Wales Government to extend the closing date of the Regional Water Strategy until primary producers, irrigators and the processing industries have been consulted.

Action: Move J Chaffey / G Sauer **Carried**

6.3 Climate Ready Communities

- Adjustments to be made once the MDBA attend the next meeting to discuss Point 2 of the document.

Action: That a representative from MDBA attend the next Region 11 Ordinary Meeting to discuss point 2 of the Climate Ready Statement.

6.4 Monthly Delegates Report

- Member councils have been sent monthly Delegates reports for tabling at their Council Meetings.

Chief Executive Officer left the meeting at 12:10pm

6.5 National Conference

- 6.5.1 The 2020 National Conference is most likely to be held as a virtual conference in the second or third week of September. Information will be sent once firmed up.
- 6.5.2 There has been mention made of the possibility of holding the Strategic Planning Workshop for 2021 in our region. Again, watch this space

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 NIL

8. NEXT MEETING

To be advised

9. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 12:20pm