



Board Meeting 409 MINUTES

28 June 2021

Murray Darling Association Incorporated
ABN 64 636 490 493

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Meeting Commencement

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:30am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Attendance

1.1 Present

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Bronwyn Thomas	Federation Council	Region 2
Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Cr Brian Lockyer	Barunga West Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10A
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Peter George	M&S Group	Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO

1.2 Absent

Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
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1.3 Apologies

1.4 Declarations

Cr B. Lockyer declared an interest in item 6.1. Cr Lockyer to remain present for the discussion but will not contribute or vote.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOTION

(Cr M. Rebbeck / Cr B. Lockyer)

That the minutes of MDA Board Meeting 408 held on 10 May 2021 be accepted as an accurate record.
CARRIED

3. Reports

3.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair held phone conversation with Wentworth Shire Councillor Cr Jane MacAllister and GM Ken Ross regarding issues raised by Cr MacAllister. It was confirmed that the MDA Chairman and CEO were seeking to ensure Region 4 councils considered the opportunity to nominate for chair of the that region at the upcoming R4 AGM according to standard protocol, noting that no nominations had been received at the time of closing nominations.

3.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO tabled her report and provided an update on trip to Canberra for ALGA NGA and meetings undertaken in Canberra. Three key themes were reported on from across all meetings:

- Seeking support for Commonwealth funding for the MDA.
- Appreciation for support of National Conference 2021 and flagging of conference 2022.
- Presentation of the resolutions and commencement of discussions for progressing those matters with the responsible agencies.

The CEO reported that Matt Pinnegar has been appointed to the position of CEO of ALGA, and that Bridgett Leopold, CEO of RAMJO has been appointed to the position of Deputy Inspector General. The CEO also noted that it had been a lively week to be in Canberra meeting with Ministers and agencies during the change of leadership of the National Party.

Actions:

MOTION

(Cr M. Rebbeck / Cr P. Maytom)

That the CEO's report be noted.

- That the MDA write to the ALGA CEO Matt Pinnegar congratulating him on his appointment to the role.
- Write to the Deputy Inspector General Bridgette Leopold, congratulating her on her appointment to the role.
- That the MDA write to the Deputy Prime Minister noting/congratulating him on his re-appointment to the role, re-affirming the MDA's position on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, encouraging the DPM to maintain an environment of consistency and stability for Basin communities and for inviting the DPM to meet with the Board of the MDA.

CARRIED

3.3 Finance Reports

The Treasurer provided the reports for April and May 2021.

MOTION

(Peter George/ Cr P. Raison)

That the reports be received and noted.

CARRIED

4. Correspondence

4.1 Incoming

Date	Received From	Subject
8 June 2021	Murray Darling Basin Authority	Response to maintaining river flows over Easter

4.2 Outgoing

MOTION

(Cr P. Raison / Cr P. Maytom)

That the correspondence be received and noted.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising

5.1 Board Resolution Register

The Board reviewed the motions and actions completed.

MOTION

(Cr A. Tilley / Cr P. Maytom)

That the Board Resolution Register report be noted.

CARRIED

5.2 Project Funding Applications Update

Discussions held regarding progress of the application approvals update.

6. General Business

6.1 Region 8 Chair

Cr Brian Lockyer has requested that he be able to continue to serve on the MDA Board in an ex-officio capacity as Barunga West Council has resolved not to continue as an MDA member.

The Board agreed that Cr Lockyer should be invited to continue to attend Board meetings as a representative of the communities of Region 8 in an ex-officio capacity subject to a letter of approval from the CEO of Barunga West Council.

Region 8 will not have voting rights through this process however Cr Lockyer's continuing engagement and local knowledge will be a valuable contribution to the discussion at board level.

The Board discussed and reaffirmed the rationale and the rule precluding serving councillors from becoming individual members.

MOTION

(M. Rebbeck / Cr P. Raison)

That the Board:

Approve Cr Brian Lockyer continue to attend Board meetings as a representative of the communities of Region 8 in an ex-officio capacity subject to a letter of approval from the CEO of Barunga West Council, until such time as a region chair is duly elected.

CARRIED

6.2 MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program

The CEO has recently started a conversation with the department regarding possible extension and adaptation of program to be delivered with current covid restrictions.

The Board informed the CEO that it believed any request for an extension should be done at earliest available time.

6.3 Boundary Realignment and Structural Governance of MDA

At the February board meeting a detailed briefing paper on the boundary realignment was presented. Further to that discussion the board is invited to have a detailed discussion on process. Based on the input from the board members we will then develop a strategy for the realignment of the MDA regional boundaries which will include the time frame and intention for public and membership consultation.

- Emma raised how Tamworth were very interested in becoming members however could not justify taking up membership due to the cost of membership.
- Cr Rebbeck questioned the process for regional boundary realignment and requested that chairs and regions have input into the process.
- Cr Thurley raised that the discussion was more focused on how we enable councils to interact with the MDA.
- Emma has held discussions with the Basin Official Committee regarding how to position the MDA for State and Federal Government funding. It has been raised with Emma that we need to utilise existing structures of local government to ensure we are utilising existing frameworks and structures to their best effect to capture efficiencies.
- The Board considers the opportunities and risks associated with change of councillors following NSW council elections in September 2021.

- Cr Rebbeck requested this issue be discussed further and workshopped at the 2021 Strategic Planning Meeting.
- The CEO has been asked to produce a briefing/discussion paper to be circulated to the Board to inform further strategic planning on this issue.
- This briefing/discussion paper will form the basis of the paper to be provided to Government to make the case for recurrent funding.
- That the matter will be discussed in more detail at the 2021 strategic Planning Workshop.
- Cr Rebbeck requested that the paper be circulated to the board prior to being sent to the Commonwealth.

MOTION

(Cr M. Rebbeck / Cr B. Lockyer)

- **The CEO has been asked to produce a briefing/discussion paper to be circulated to the Board to inform further strategic planning on this issue.**
- **This briefing/discussion paper will form the basis of the paper to be provided to Government to make the case for recurrent funding.**
- **That the matter will be discussed in more detail at the 2021 strategic Planning Workshop.**

CARRIED

6.4 Draft Code of Conduct Procedures

Cr Thurley requested that the CEO circulate the Draft *Code of Conduct for Committee Members, Delegates of Council, Council Advisors* and the *Procedure for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct* seeking comments or amendments for the board's consideration and further discussion.

Action:

That the CEO circulate the Draft Code of Conduct for Committee Members, Delegates of Council, Council Advisors and the Procedure for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct.

That board members provide comments, feedback or amendments prior to the next board meeting for consideration and further discussion.

6.5 Local Government NSW Water Conference

Cr Phyllis Miller noted that the LGNSW Water Conference has been cancelled or postponed due to covid outbreak in NSW.

Further information will be circulated to the Board as it comes to hand.

7. Items from the Regions

7.1 Region 2

- Region 2 Chair, Cr Bronwyn Thomas will present the motions from the recent Region 2 meeting.
- Region 7 Chair, Cr Andrew Tilley advised the Board of the passing of Cr Peter Jamieson and informed the board that Region 7 has passed on its condolences to Cr Jamieson's family.
- Region 9 Chair, Cr Paul Maytom advised that he is meeting with Cr Glen Andrezza from Griffith City Council to discuss Cr Andrezza succeeding Cr Maytom as Region 9 chair.
- Region 9 Chair, Cr Paul Maytom advised the board that he had met with NSW Minister Kean (Minister for Energy and Environment), NSW Minister Pavey (Minister for Water, Property and Housing) and David Farley to discuss the Lake Coolah/Mejum water storage proposal. Cr Maytom believes he received in principle support from Minister Pavey for a feasibility study.
- Region 6 Chair, Cr Melissa Rebbeck raised with the Board that Region 6 has flagged the 13th and 14th of October to hold its Region 6 Symposium. Cr Rebbeck identified that the event looks to be more South Australian focused than purely Region 6. Cr Rebbeck is hoping to have some Northern Basin presentations at the Symposium and invited all Board members to present and attend the event.

MOTION

(Cr A. Tilley / Cr P. Maytom)

That the MDA write to the Council and to the family to express its condolences on the death of Cr Peter Jamieson, immediate past treasurer of the MDA, and councillor at City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

CARRIED

8. National Conference

8.1 2021 Profit and Loss Statement

Two versions of the profit and loss statement are provided for review by the Board, one including cost of staff time which has not been previously reported.

MOTION

(Cr A. Tilley/ Cr P. Miller)

That the profit and loss statement from the MDA National Conference be received and noted.

CARRIED

8.2 2022 National Conference

Dates to be advised.

A family of the venues at Albury is being arranged with Albury City Council.

9. Other Business

- Emma advised the Board that Executive Assistant Sharolyn Taylor has accepted a position with Rochester Regional Health and will no longer be working with the organisation.

- Cr Rebbeck asked for an update on the strategic advisory committee, whether it has a current Chair, whether it is meeting regularly, and how the Board may engage with the strategic advisory committee more proactively.
- The Strategic Advisory Subcommittee provides advice to, and is a reference and support mechanism for, the Board in relation to the strategic development of the Association. The strategic advisory subcommittee is not a policy-making body, nor does it have substantive executive function. Its purpose is to assist the board in developing board policy and monitoring organizational activity within the scope of its remit, and making recommendations to the board for resolution.
- The chair of the strategic advisory committee is Emma Bradbury, consistent with the Terms of Reference and as resolved by the committee at SAC Meeting 002.

10. Meeting Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:28 am

DRAFT