



NATIONAL BOARD

Meeting Number 340

MINUTES

Wednesday 21 May 2014

Visitor Information Centre, Swan Hill
(Corner of Curlewis and McCrae streets;

Meeting commenced at 10.00am

**Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer**

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION BOARD

AGENDA

WELCOME

National President, Cr Greg Toll

1. PRESENT

Greg Toll	Region 2 – President
Murray Wood	Region 10
Darryl Jacob	Region 1
Paul Maytom	Region 9
Ray Najar	General Manager
Peter Jamieson	Region 7 – Treasurer
Mark Ward	Region 5
Rod Button	Region 8
Gary Norton	Region 3
Alan Oliver	Region 6
Emma Bradbury	Consultant
Peter Smith	(Region 6) support/guest
Judi Harris	Region 4

2. APOLOGIES

Jim Hullick	A&P Member
Adrian Wells	Projects Manager
Les McPhee	Guest
Oscar Artensen	Guest – Region 3
Joan White	Region 11/12 rep
Brian Grogan	Chair – MDF
Ken Rogers	Immediate Past President

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Emma Bradbury	Item 12.6
Gary Norton	Item 12.8.1 Interest in common, not required to absent.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Gary Norton/Alan Oliver - Carried

That that the minutes of the Board meeting, No 339, held at Forbes Shire Council, Forbes, NSW, on 14 February 2014 (as circulated in April 2014), be amended as noted below – and then be endorsed as a true and accurate record.

Amendment: *Section 9.3 - Cr J White and Cr A Oliver voted against adopting the financial report as presented pending further information on income and expenditure and the current profit and loss reports. Cr's White and Oliver said they did not feel that the material presented to date was sufficient to provide them with a clear understanding of the current financial position of the Association.*

5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM BOARD MEETING 339 – February 2014

RESOLUTION	ACTION	STATUS
Ms Linda Deans of Wodonga, VIC, is employed as a contractor to fill role of the MDA Albury Office Secretary for two days a week	To note	Done
New project (612) to introduce the Creative Catchment Kids NRM writing program into the Western catchment of NSW is approved.	To note	Done
2014 National Conference/ AGM will be held from 14 October to 17 October at Tumut, NSW.	To note	Done
Board accepts in-principle first draft of National Conference agenda.	To note	Done
General Manager to develop implementation plan (based on K Rogers report) to restructure MDA.	For these items, it was noted that the actions would carry forward to the responsibility to the incoming Chief Executive Officer. Many of the noted items are now incorporated in the Chief Executive Officer's KPIs.	
Report to ensure closer collaboration between the MDA and MDF is to be made to the Board prior to the 2014 AGM.		
General Manager to clarify the following for discussion at the next Board meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the memberships paid by riparian and non-riparian councils any situations where a special membership arrangement may be made for a member council, 		
General Manager to clarify for next Board meeting AGM voting procedures.		
MDA to partner with the MDBA on the collection of information from Local Government for the analysis of socio-economic impacts of the Murray Darling Basin Plan at the local level, and that the MDA's General Manager is to commence implementation of this action.		
Forward MDA's carp processing report to Cr J Gibb at Renmark, SA		Done

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Jamieson / Rodney Button – Carried

That the correspondence be noted.

7. CHANGE MANAGEMENT PACKAGE

Gary Norton / Murray Wood – carried

That a synopsis of the Change Management Package, as adopted in principal by the board be prepared by the incoming Chief Executive Officer, and distributed to all regions for information, and further input if necessary. Acknowledged that the execution of the package will be the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer to deliver.

8. Reports

**8.1 NATIONAL PRESIDENTS REPORT - Cr Greg Toll
Alan Oliver / Peter Jamieson - carried.**

That the President's report as follows be accepted.

President's report (spoken)

20/02/2014 Myself and Emma Bradbury met with Peter Walsh, Victorian Minister for Water, Minister for Food Security, Spring Street Melbourne. Noted Minister Walsh's luke-warm support for the MDA at that time, and acknowledged work to be done in building that relationship to get the minister on board.

- 21/02/2014 Region 3 Meeting Deniliquin. Very good turn up. Guest speakers included Mr John Foster – Director CEWH, and Sarah ??
- 26/02/2014 Meeting in Melbourne with Rob Spence and Bill McArthur, Chief Executive Officer and Chair (respectively) of the Municipal Association of Victoria. Meeting also attended by Emma Bradbury and well supported by Craig Knowles of the MDBA. Discussions around consideration of those who draw water from the basin making an active contribution to the association.
- 28/03/2014 Murray Bridge – meeting with the Mayors and Chief Executive Officer's, and with the board of Region 6. Addressed a number of local concerns. Very positive meeting. Good outcomes.
Travelled on to Goolwa. Met with Ken Jury, and with Frank Tuckwell. Inspected the barrages.
- 17/04/2014 Travelled to Canberra with Emma Bradbury. Met with Rhonda Dixon, Chief Executive Officer MDBA. Discussed contract for socio-economic information sharing project.
Met with Dr Ben Docker, Office of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Discussed placement of the Local Engagement Officers. Suggested further consideration is given to locations, particularly as there is to be no LEO in the GO food producing area. Also invited Dr Docker to present at the Region 3 meeting in Kerang.
- 30/04/2014 Region 3 meeting, Kerang. Insufficient numbers to form a quorum. Good discussion. Dr Docker presented.
- 04/05/2014 Travelled to Adelaide with Margaret, and with Emma Bradbury to assist Ray with transitional arrangements.
Met with Dr Johnathan Sobels, from the University of Adelaide.
Ray Ajar, Dr Sobels, Emma, and I then went and met with Senator Simon Birmingham, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Water.
This was a good opportunity to discuss upcoming project opportunities. Dr Sobels advocated for more work to be done on social and economic indicators across the basin as the Basin Plan is implemented.
Was also a good opportunity to introduce myself as incoming NP.
There has been quite a bit of positive feedback since then.

I would also like the board to consider that, with the resignation of Ray Ajar, the GM is unlikely to be located in Adelaide, and that it may be timely to consider relocating the office to a more centralised location within the basin footprint. There will be further discussion on this later in the meeting.

8.2 FINANCE REPORT – Ray Najjar Mark Ward/ Murray Woods – Carried

That the financial report be received.

Peter Jamieson spoke to the reports, acknowledging that the Association is experiencing a difficult period, with cash flow posing a significant challenge in the coming months, until membership receipts start coming in.

8.3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr Ray Najjar Mark Ward / Gary Norton – carried

That the General Manager's report be accepted.

9. PROJECT REPORT

9.1 New projects

Peter Jamieson / Mark Ward – carried

That the new projects and developing project be noted and endorsed.

PROJECT 602	EXTENSION TO NRM SCHOOL DVDS
OBJECTIVE	To plan, film and complete a series of short DVDs for the MDBA on Aboriginal cultural heritage issues at Lake Victoria in conjunction with the Barkindji and Maraura Elders Council
PROJECT MANAGER	Adrian Wells
LOCATION	South western NSW
START DATE	March 2014
LIKELY FINISH DATE	October 2014
FUNDING SOURCES	MDBA - \$5,000; Murray Local Land Services - \$5,000; Western Local Land Services - \$5,000.

PROJECT 620	EXTENSION TO TURN YOUR PLACE GREEN PROGRAM
OBJECTIVE	Clean energy education project for southwest NSW – to enhance and expand the existing MDA ‘Turn Your Place Green’ mobile resource project with additional school and community NRM education and curriculum resources
PROJECT MANAGERS	Owen Dunlop, Adrian Wells
LOCATION	Southern NSW
START DATE	May 2013
LIKELY FINISH DATE	July 2014
FUNDING SOURCES	NSW Office of Environment & Heritage - \$35,3165. There may be additional funds from the Murray Local Land Services.
RECOVERY BY MDA	Anticipate \$3,000 management fee, all other costs covered

PROJECT 630	UP AND DOING
OBJECTIVE	Research, prepare and publish new history of the MDA from 1944 to 2014 in time for the 2014 National Conference/AGM
PROJECT MANAGER	Adrian Wells
LOCATION	Murray-Darling Basin
START DATE	December 2013
LIKELY FINISH DATE	November 2014
FUNDING SOURCES	NAB - \$5,000; Murray-Darling Basin Authority - \$8,500; Snowy Hydro Ltd - \$5,000
PROGRESS	Started

PROJECT 631	TUPPAL FOOD AND FIBRE FESTIVAL: 2014
OBJECTIVE	To develop and run an 8-month school education program to complement and support the Tuppal Wool Shed Food and Fibre Festival in mid-October 2014, including workshops, bookwriting, farm tours, festival student day activities, etc.
PROJECT MANAGERS	Adrian Wells, Owen Dunlop
LOCATION	Southern NSW
START DATE	March 2014
LIKELY FINISH DATE	November 2014
FUNDING SOURCES	Murray Local Land Services - \$20,000 Tuppal Food and Fibre Festival organisation - \$15,000.
RECOVERY BY MDA	Anticipate \$2,500 management fee All other costs covered
PROGRESS	Well underway

9.2 Developing project

PROJECT	SOCIO-ECONOMIC MONITORING PROJECT
OBJECTIVE	To collect and assess the suitability of information available from Local Government organisations within the Basin to assist the MDBA to analyse trends and drivers of social and economic change overtime as the Basin Plan is implemented.
PROJECT MANAGER	Adrian Wells, Emma Bradbury
LOCATION	South western NSW
START DATE	May 2014
LIKELY FINISH DATE	November 2014
ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCE	MDBA - \$50,000
PROGRESS	Submission prepared

10. MURRAY DARLING FOUNDATION – A.W. / B. G. attached Rod Button / Garry Norton – carried

That the Murray Darling Foundation report be received.

In the absence of either Adrian Wells or Brian Grogan, Ray Ajar provided a verbal report, noting that there is some work to do to ensure that the financial management framework of the MDF must be and remain clear and transparent, distinct from the financials of the MDA.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Coal seam gas extraction Murray Wood / Paul Maytom - carried

- i) That all regions be encouraged to discuss the matters of coal seam gas exploration, mining and the practice of fracking at their next meeting, and to provide feedback to the executive for further consideration, and further
- ii) That all regions, and the executive identify and invite appropriate guest speakers to their meetings to better inform the membership on the issues, and further
- iii) That Greg and Emma talk to the MDBA about possible risks and impacts of coal seam gas exploration, mining and the practice of fracking to local communities, and request the MDBA seek to extend their scope to consider the impacts of these activities.

11.2 Cr Joan White's resignation from the Board Gary Norton / Mark Woods – carried

That the Board:

- accepts Cr Joan White's resignation from the Board and that the Region be asked to elect a new Chair;
- writes and thanks Cr White for her contribution to the Association and the Board, acknowledging her work in furthering member council engagement in northern NSW and southern Queensland;
- acknowledges Cr White's contribution to the Association in the Association's newsletters and annual report.

11.3 Election for Vice President

Nominees: Alan Oliver seconded Gary Norton
 Rodney Button seconded Mark Ward

Closed ballot. Elected **Rodney Button**

Thank both nominees, and congratulate Rodney Button on his election to the position of Vice Chairman.

11.4 Mr Ray Najar's resignation from the Association Rodney Button / Mark Woods – carried

That the Board:

- accepts Mr Ray Najar's resignation as General Manager of the Association;
- writes and thanks Mr Ray Najar for his significant contribution to the Association over 11 years, acknowledging the large range of work undertaken and initiatives established;
- Acknowledges Mr Ray Najar's contribution to the Association and the Board in the Association's newsletters, annual report and at the 2014 National Conference.

** Many positive words spoken and reflections on Ray's knowledge, effort, and commitment to the role. Special acknowledgement was paid to his efforts in organising the AGMs, and his many visits to Canberra.*

11.5 Position Requirements for Interim General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Alan Oliver / Paul Maytom – carried

- i) That Position Description, including KPI's and Delegation of Authorities documents as previously distributed be adopted to govern the position of Interim GM/Chief Executive Officer.
- ii) That the Interim position is offered for a period of not more than six months, at which time the position is reviewed, and an open recruitment process be undertaken.

11.6 Appointment of an Interim General Manager for the Association Judi Harris / Darryl Jacobs - carried

That Ms Emma Bradbury of Bradbury Management Consulting be appointed as the Interim Chief Executive Officer of the MDA for a period up to six months, as per the conditions of Item 11.5, subject to acceptance.

Emma Bradbury returned to the meeting and accepted the appointment on the terms offered.

11.7 Memorandum of Understanding Gary Norton / Alan Oliver - carried

- i) That the Memorandum of Understanding between the MDA and the MDBA be ratified and approved as accepted by the board, and further
- ii) That a copy of the MOU be distributed to all regions to be tabled at their next meeting.

Note: It was acknowledged there has been some concern expressed as to the process and chronology of the development of the MOU. Some board members had been aware of the content, with opportunity to comment, while others had not. NP Greg Toll noted that he would seek to ensure that such problems were avoided in future.

11.8 Reorganisation of the MDA

At the last Board meeting, the Board was presented with a detailed proposal for a reorganisation for the Association. The Board accepted and adopted the report in-principle and requested the General Manager to develop an implementation plan.

Incoming Interim Chief Executive Officer sought board approval for a number of actions to commence implementation of the change management plan.

11.8.1

Judy Harris / Daryl Jacobs – carried

That the board approve the opening of new accounts with ANZ Bank IB4B

That 4 positions be nominated and identified as authorised

National President

Chief Executive Officer

Treasurer

Vice President

11.8.2

Murray Wood / Alan Oliver – carried

That the Commonwealth Bank Accounts be maintained for the time being

That the existing CBA electronic devices and signatories be revoked immediately

That current authorisations and signatories non CBA accounts be amended consistent with the ANZ bank arrangements as noted in Item 12.8.1.

That no change be made to the current NAB Banking Arrangements at this time

That the CBA and LGFA accounts be consolidated and funds transferred the ANZ accounts.

11.8.3

Murray Wood / Gary Norton – carried

That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to take all necessary action to close the Adelaide office, and to relocate the MDA head office to Echuca for the duration of the Interim position.

11.8.4

Alan Oliver / Gary Norton – carried

That the following messaging be agreed and endorsed to be carried forward to the various Ministers and bureaucrats, in their upcoming trip to Canberra

New and re-invigorated MDA. New National President, new Chief Executive Officer.

Re-affirm our purpose and objectives

- promote the right balance between consumptive use and water for the environment.
- promote sustainable development.
- recognise the social values of the Basin and ensure they are maintained.
- engage in partnerships with bodies who undertake relevant research projects.
- support educational initiatives that promotes and develops the Basin.

Invite the Minister to work with the MDA as key conduit to local government and communities.

Flag that the MDA will be formulating a position on coal seam gas exploration in coming months – and that this may vary from region to region dependent on local circumstances and issues.

Discuss

- Coal seam gas exploration and fracking – social and environmental impacts. The MDA will welcome presentations and input that may assist members to better understand the issues, to facilitate informed discussion and debate.

- Need to better support education and training opportunities in regional areas – particularly to support agriculture and resource management. We are aware that education is a responsibility of the states – but it does bear relevance in light of the federal budget.
- Advocate for an additional Local Engagement Officer (CEWH) to be located in the Murray and Goulburn Valley food-bowl region.
- The importance of supporting family-farming enterprises as an important social and economic contributor to the agriculture and food production sectors.

Seek greater clarity and the availability of meaningful information to assist farmers, manufacturers and food producers, and other stakeholders to better understand both the impacts of and the processes around the entry of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder onto the water trading market.

11.8.5

Daryl Jacobs / Alan Oliver – carried

That all assets currently held by the MDA are retained for valuation and inclusion in budget considerations.

14. NEXT MEETING – to be determined

15. MEETING CLOSE – 3.00pm