



Murray Darling Association Inc.

www.mda.asn.au

ABN: 64 636 490 493

**Ordinary Meeting of the Board
21 November, 2014, commencing at 11.00am via SKYPE**

MINUTES - MEETING 343

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr Greg Toll	Chair- R2	Echuca	A/V
Emma Bradbury	Chief Executive Officer	Echcua	A/v
Darryl Jacobs	R1	Burrombuttock	A/V
Cr Judi Harris	R4	Mildura	A/v
*Cr Mike Fuller	R5	Berri Barmerah	Audio
Cr Frank Tuckwell	R6	Alexandrina	A/v
*Rod Button	R8	Port Vincent	Audio
*Cr Paul Maytom	R9	Leeton	Audio
Murray Wood	R1	Dubbo	A/v

1.2 Apologies

Cr Oscar Aertssen	R3
Cr Peter Jamieson	R7
**Rod Button	R8
**Cr Paul Maytom	R9

Meeting via Skype.

** Denotes break in attendance due to technical difficulties.

A quorum was maintained at all times.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting held Tuesday, 14 October 2014 be accepted as true and correct.

Rod Button / Cr Mike Fuller

Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING

- 3.1 Succession planning – notes the with Adrian being ill, consideration will need to be given on the way forward for Albury. See Chief Executive Officer Report 1.1.2
- 3.2 Input to drafts and submissions – held over
- 3.3 Ambassadors for Murray Darling Association – held over
- 3.4 Foundation Committee engagement – held over

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Welcome Cr Frank Tuckwell OAM, incoming Chair of Region 6

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report - decisions

Project Operations

Following the calculations that there have been a number of cost over-runs in some projects the board affirmed that the practice of cross-subsidization of projects and enterprises is not permitted. Budgets must be managed to ensure projects are delivered within funding agreements, with membership subs to fund the growth and representation of regions.

Motion: That the MDA seek to fulfil its contractual obligations in relation to existing projects, having regard to the interests and financial viability of the MDA in doing so, and having regard also to the reputation and good standing of the MDA and our partners. In all future projects, budgets must be set and adhered to.

Murray Wood / Rod Button

Carried

Communications Protocol

It was agreed that the unauthorized distribution of the board agenda to non-board members during the month was inappropriate and not consistent with good governance. A Communication and Media Protocol may be beneficial in guiding process and practice in this area. Murray offered to assist by providing a template for editing to suit the needs of the MDA.

Motion: That the Chief Executive Officer distribute a draft Communication and Media Protocol for consideration by the board.

Murray Wood / Rod Button

Carried

Public Officer

It was agreed that the board retain Bill Gorman as Public Officer

Vehicle changeover

Motion: That the MDA trade the Nissan X-trail and Nissan Dualis on a replacement vehicle. Three quotes to be obtained.

Cr Judi Harris / Rodney Button

Carried

Viability of multiple offices

Detailed discussion on the risks to the organization of being spread too thinly across multiple sites, with limited resources.

Motion: That the MDA affirm its commitment to be located in Echuca consistent with the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer in that location. Further, that a review be undertaken into the needs and operation of the Albury office, with actions taken to best meet the needs of the organization.

Cr Frank Tuckwell / Murray Wood

Carried

Change Management plan

Having affirmed that the organization is on solid, if not vibrant financial footing, and that many region chairs are keen to focus on renewal both within the regions and at board level, now is the ideal opportunity to explore options to deliver on the MDA's strategic objective of change management as commenced by Ken Rogers.

Motion: That concurrent with the review of the constitution, the Board instructs the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a briefing paper considering options for board composition that will support the endorsed change management process; enhance and support succession planning and resilience; and support growth within the regions and membership.

Murray Wood / Greg Toll

Carried

- 4.2.1 Strategic Plan Implementation – advisory committee and board – carried over
- 4.3 National Conference
 - 4.3.1 Feedback - Opportunities and Improvements – carried over
 - 4.3.2 Planning Committee 2015 – carried over
- 4.4 Annualised Region Meetings Calendar carried over

5. NEXT MEETING - Friday 19th December 9.30am AEDST

Discussed and agreed that the board meet every month for not more than 1 hour, in order to continue to improve our effectiveness with skype, and to manage current issues.

6. CLOSE 1.30pm