



Murray Darling Association Inc.

www.mda.asn.au

ABN: 64 636 490 493

Ordinary Meeting of the Board
Friday 19 December 2014, commencing at 9:30 am (AEDST) via SKYPE

MINUTES - MEETING 344

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr Greg Toll	Chair- R2	Echuca	A/V
Emma Bradbury	Chief Executive Officer	Echuca	A/V
Darryl Jacobs	R1	Burrombuttock	A/V
Cr Judi Harris	R4	Mildura	A/V
Cr Mike Fuller	R5	Berri Barmerah	Audio
Cr Oscar Aertssen	R3	Kerang	A/v
Rod Button	R8	Port Vincent	A/V
*Cr Paul Maytom	R9	Leeton	Audio

1.2 Apologies

Cr Frank Tuckwell	R6
Cr Peter Jamieson	R7
Murray Wood	R10

Meeting via Skype.

* Denotes break in attendance due to technical difficulties.

A quorum was maintained at all times.

1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

Darry Jacobs declared an interest in item 3.2.2 on the agenda.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mike Fuller raised concern about how minutes are worded. Mike suggested in the future when there is a motion in a Meeting of the Board it should be documented as it is read out and not re-worded.

Motion: That the minutes of the Board Meeting held Friday 21st November 2014 be accepted as true and correct and that care be taken in future minutes to document motions as they are read out.

Judy Harris/Mike Fuller

Carried

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report

3.1.1 **Albury Office review update**

Paul Maytom mentioned that ... Adrian to be included in decisions.

Rodney Button made a statement that MDA still needs to run in the absence of Adrian and administration costs need to be costed.

Judi Harris is happy to support Option 3 for cheaper costs but would not like there to be any decisions about staffing until next meeting.

Paul Maytom suggested the move should be discussed with Adrian Wells.

Mike Fuller asked whether staff members in Albury had been informed of the Albury office options, Emma Bradbury confirmed that staff have been advised that options are being explored.

Mike Fuller requested clarification whether the proposed office space at Albury City Council was 77m² or could be reduced to 25m² in the future. Emma that she estimated the current space is approximately 25m² so space would be sufficient.

Note: Subsequent investigation has found that the floor space at the current location is actually 72m², including a reception room/area currently used for storage. Therefore, this issue may need to be revisited in the ongoing negotiations between the parties. Further information will be brought to the board.

Motion: That Option 3 be considered after discussions with all the parties, including Adrian Wells, in order to explain the benefits to Adrian.

Judy Harris/Rodney Button

Carried

3.1.2 **Report to Murray Local Land Services- Project Expenditure**

Discussion occurred about NRM Expense Report. Oscar Aertssen expressed concern about 'unknown' costs listed on page 1 of CEO's Report. Emma Bradbury explained expense report and mentioned there was firstly no evidence of impropriety and secondly in the absence of Adrian Wells it is necessary to rely on raw data.

Judi Harris suggested that records need to be kept and monitored and Emma Bradbury agreed that established systems are to be utilized. Emma Bradbury has invited LLS to put forward a proposal for a one off adjustment to the contract.

3.1.3 **MGR Accountants- Financial Reporting-held over**

3.1.4 **Decision on MDA/MDF reporting structure**

In June 2008, the MDEF Committee and the MDA resolved to operate under a single ABN, that is with the MDEF an independent subsidiary entity of the association. While it was generally understood that this resolution had been duly actioned, the activities of the MDEF continued to be reported to the ATO on the independent ABN, and to be recorded in a separate record keeping (MYOB) file.

Emma has been working closely with our accountants this year in order to structure our systems in a manner that is compliant with our reporting obligations, is clean, simple, accurate, effective and meets the distinct but common objectives of the MDA and the MDEF.

Rodney Button clarified that the Murray Darling Foundation (MDF) should no longer be referred to as Murray Darling Environmental Foundation (MDEF).

Emma noted that no outstanding tax or penalties are likely.

Discussions occurred in relation to:

- a) Closing the MDF ABN
- b) Operating an MYOB file for each MDA and MDF

Mike Fuller noted that Brian Grogan had concerns and Mike emphasized the importance of the MDF being consulted about any changes.

Motion: To lay the matter on the table until further information about financial and legal obligations is provided to the board and clarification has been provided from the MDF.

Mike Fuller/Paul Maytom

Carried

- 3.2 Chief Executive Officer's Employment Contract-**held over**
- 3.2.1 Remuneration subcommittee-**held over**

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- 4.1 National Conference-held over
 - 4.1.1 Feedback - Opportunities and Improvements-**held over**
 - 4.1.2 Planning Committee 2015-**held over (Oscar Aertssen volunteered to be on this committee)**
- 4.2 November Report to Regions for distribution-**held over**

Emma Bradbury left the meeting at 10:20am (AEDST)

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Confidential Item

Oscar Aertssen left the meeting at 10:56am (AEDST)

5.2 MDA Strategic Vision

Judi Harris suggested that major activities of the MDA need to be promoted in the media to represent what is happening in the Murray Darling Basin.

Greg Toll agreed we need the 'Big Picture' activities back in.

6. NEXT MEETING - Friday 30th January 2015 at 9.30am AEDST via SKYPE

Judy Harris suggested that Board Members should email concerns prior to Meetings of the Board.

7. CLOSE 11.00am