



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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ABN: 64 636 490 493

**Ordinary Meeting of the Board  
Friday 6 February 2015, commencing at 8:45 am (AEDST)**

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## MINUTES - MEETING 345

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### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1 Present

Cr Greg Toll	Chair- R2	Swan Hill	Present
Ms Emma Bradbury	Chief Executive Officer	Swan Hill	Present
Mr Darryl Jacob	R1	Swan Hill	Present
Cr Oscar Aertssen	R3 (join via skype at 9:30am)	Kerang	A/V
Cr Judi Harris	R4	Swan Hill	Present
Cr Mike Fuller	R5	Swan Hill	Present
Mr Rodney Button	R8	Swan Hill	Present
Cr Paul Maytom	R9	Swan Hill	Present
Ms Sandra Adams	Executive Assistant	Swan Hill	Present
Mr Owen Dunlop	MDA Contractor 10:15am-10:30am	Swan Hill	Present
Mr Brian Grogan	Chair of MDF 10:30am-11:55am	Swan Hill	Present
Mr Adrian Wells	Manager Upper Catchment MDA	Albury	Audio

#### 1.2 Apologies

Cr Frank Tuckwell	R6
Cr Peter Jamieson	R7
Cr Oscar Aertssen	R3 (join via skype at 9:30am)

***Motion: That the Apologies be accepted as true and correct***

***Darryl Jacob/Mike Fuller***

***Carried***

#### 1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

Darryl Jacob declared a non - pecuniary interest in any discussions on the Albury Office because one of Wirraminna's committee members is on the board of Murray Wetlands Working Group.

## 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Amendments:

The following amendments to the previous minutes were proposed and accepted.

a) Amend motion under item 3.1.4 in the previous minutes to read:

‘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’

b) Amend item 1.3 to remove any reference to Darryl being on the board of Wirraminna. Darryl Jacob did not note a conflict in this regard.

***Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be amended to reflect the above changes and adopted.***

**Judy Harris/Paul Maytom**

**Carried**

## 3. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 3.1 Digital Presentations

#### 3.1.1 Website preview

- 23 Digital have been engaged to design and develop a new website.
- Explored webpage and features
- Board members are requested to send through any suggestions as web is in development stage
- Postings on the webpage will be undertaken in consultation between the relevant region chair and the staff managing the webpage
- Anticipated launch date middle of March.

#### 3.1.2 Virtual Tour Albury Offices

- Albury office video
- Proposed Albury Office video, parking, stairs, lift and located on third floor
- Greg Toll mentioned that the proposed Albury office is very good, it has parking and is safer.
- ...

#### 3.1.3 Echuca Office Signage

- Signage went up yesterday
- Located on main road opposite Peter Walsh's office
- Consistent office presence

**Oscar Aertssen joined the meeting via skype at 9:20am (AEDST)**

### **3.2 Confidential Item**

### **3.3 Statutory Declaration and Presentation by Owen Dunlop**

#### **3.3.1 Statutory Declaration**

Greg Toll was handed a Statutory Declaration from Rebecca Dunlop this morning prior to this board meeting. Owen Dunlop is in Swan Hill and has requested the opportunity to address the Board today.

**Motion: That Owen Dunlop be invited to provide a 10 minutes presentation.**

**Mike Fuller/Paul Maytom**

**Carried**

...

**Emma Bradbury re-enters the meeting at 10:15am**

**Owen Dunlop entered the meeting at 10:15am**

**3.3.2 Owen Dunlop 15 minute presentation**

- Refuted concerns about overspending
- Noted that he believes projects have been successfully completed, on budget
- Has sent copies of reports to Adrian Wells and Linda Deans over the last few months
- ...
- ...
- Noted that he has not been responsible for budgets or managing any part of the finances
- Believes that Adrian has always managed balanced budgets.
- ...

There were no questions put to Owen Dunlop, and no further discussion on the matter at this point.

**Owen Dunlop left the meeting at 10:30am**

**Brian Grogan entered the meeting at 10:30am (AEDST)**

**3.4 Communication Report #3 MDF- Presentation by Mr Brian Grogan, Chairman of the Foundation Committee**

Brian noted that he felt very uncomfortable in making this presentation, Brian was thanked for his attendance and assured that his continued contribution was valued and appreciated.

Brian then made the following points.

- ...
- Adrian Wells is respected across the basin
- In the past, each year MDF was able to report balances
- Document titled, 'MDF Notes to the Financial Statements for the year Ended 30 June 2013' (attached) was introduced to the meeting
- Auditors should have spoken to the MDF Committee
- Brian mentioned that the painting titled, 'Floor in the Darling 1890' should reside in an appropriate location in South Australia
- Noted that the current housing arrangements of the above mentioned painting in Echuca are on an 'on loan' basis
- ...

General discussion around shared objectives, the need to re-establish the foundation balances, and the importance of active cohesion between the MDA and the MDF.

**Motion: That in reviewing the constitution that a board position is reserved for the**

***MDF Chair or alternate and that the MDF Committee constitute at least one other MDA Board Member.***

**Murray Wood/Paul Maytom**

**Carried**

Brian Grogan mentioned that Adrian Wells needs to report to the Registrar of Environmental Organisations.

***Motion: That the CEO work with the MDF to establish an appropriate financial statement so that they can meet their reporting requirements by the end of February 2015.***

**Mike Fuller/Paul Maytom**

**Carried**

Brian mentioned that he needs to know funds in the water bank account

**Brian Grogan left the meeting at 11:55am (AEDST)**

***Motion: That both Owen Dunlop and Brian Grogan be thanked in writing for their attendance and presentation at the Board Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and for his contribution over time to the MDA.***

**Rodney Button/Murray Wood**

**Carried**

**Break for Lunch at 12:35pm**

**Meeting re-commenced at 1:00pm**

**Adrian Wells joined the meeting via telephone 1:00pm**

**3.5 Communication Report #2 MDF- Projects  
Adrian Wells, Manager Upper Catchments via Telephone**

...

Adrian also noted that he will retire by the end of the year, and encouraged the board to look to the future in seeking out the next person to make their mark on the association. He noted his continued support for a push for greater representation by the MDA in the northern regions of the basin.

Paul Maytom expressed his thanks to Adrian and said that he has relied on Adrian a lot and the person replacing him will have to be of a high standard.

Adrian was asked his views on the proposed relocation of the Albury office from 499 Kiewa Street to the Albury City Council at 533 Kiewa St. Adrian acknowledged that there was benefits to the move, and that while he hadn't wholly embraced the process, he did not object to the move.

**Adrian Wells left the meeting via telephone 1:30pm**

***Motion: That the MDA accept the offer by the Albury City Council to accept the office space.***

**Rodney Button/Murray Wood**

**Carried**

**(Darryl Jacob abstained from the motion due to conflict of interest)**

### **3.6 MDA Financial Review Action Plan 2015**

The board acknowledged that there has been much discussion around the challenges associated with the implementation their change management strategy (adopted May 2014). It is important to focus on the actions required to bring about financial stability, good governance and certainty for our members, staff and stakeholders.

The MDA Financial Review Action Plan 2015 was tabled for review and discussion.

Emma read through each point of the action plan, with discussion followed. Four adjustments were noted:

- 1.1.1 Insert the word 'minimum', to read '*plus minimum 10%...*'
- 1.1.2 Change action date to 30/12/2015
- 1.1.8 Change word from 'Association' to 'Foundation'
- 2.1.7 Change action date from 'Immediate' to 31/12/2015

***Motion: That the Board adopt the MDA Financial Review Action Plan 2015, in full as amended.***

**Murray Wood/Rodney Button**

**Carried**

## **4. REPORTS**

- 4.1 **Chairman's Report-Greg Toll**
- 4.2 **CEO's Report-Emma Bradbury**
- 4.3 **MDF-Mr Brian Grogan (see item 3.4)**
- 4.4 **Adrian Wells, Manager Upper Catchments**

***Motion: Move that all reports be taken as read and adopted***

**Mike Fuller/Murray Wood**

**Carried**

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING**

### **5.1 National Conference**

- 5.1.1 Daryl Jacob provided feedback from Tumut Conference to assist with the planning of the 2015 Conference.

- Was rushed
- Can hard copies be handed out with voting rules
- Motions to be debated on the big screen
- Earlier release of motions
- Report on the MDF activities
- Venue quaint but blinded by spotlight, might be better around a round table
- Annual dinner guest speaker-Snowy Hydro, was going to get the three but could not come
- Main meal delivered cold
- Look at other issues with speakers (wed)
- Tour on bus - would have been good to have a guide
- 100 people paid for and only 58 turned up
- Tumut council excellent, bus pick up good

## 5.1.2 Planning Committee 2015-held over

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

#### 6.1 Letters

- ✓ Greg Toll suggested thank you letters should be written to:
- ✓ The Hon Craig Knowles – outgoing Chair of the MDBA
- ✓ Senator Simon Birmingham – outgoing Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment
- ✓ Mr Bob Baldwin MP – new Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment
- ✓ Mr Neil Andrews - Inco incoming Chair of the MDBA

***Motion: That letters of thanks be written.***

**Paul Maytom/Mike Fuller**

**Carried**

#### 6.2 Fruit Fly

Judi Harris mentioned one of the concerns in her area is Fruit Fly, this was discussed and the following motion put forward:

***Motion: MDA investigate the spread of QFF and consider a position***

**Judi Harris/Rodney Button**

**Carried**

### 7. NEXT MEETING

Official opening of the Echuca office and next board meeting will be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015. There will be a dinner on the Friday night then a meeting on Saturday morning at approximately 8:30am.

Daryl Jacob suggested a strategic plan be on the agenda for the meeting in Echuca on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Emma Bradbury welcomed Sandra Adams (Executive Assistant) to Murray Darling Association Inc.

### 8. CLOSE 3:30pm