



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Ordinary Meeting of the Board
Friday 24th July 2015, commencing at 12:05 am (AEST)
Location: MDA Echuca

MINUTES - MEETING 348

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr Greg Toll	National President, Chair-R2	Echuca	Present
Ms Emma Bradbury	Chief Executive Officer	Echuca	Present
Mr Stan Gibney**	Finance Manager	Echuca	Present
Ms Sandra Adams	Executive Assistant	Echuca	Present
Mr David Thurley	Region 1 Chair	Echuca	Present
Cr Peter Jamieson	Region 7 Chair	Echuca	Present
Mr Rodney Button	Region 8 Chair	Echuca	Present
Cr Paul Maytom	Region 9 Chair	Echuca	Present
Mr Murray Wood	Region 10 Chair	Echuca	Present

**Stan Gibney was only present for item 3.8 onwards, between 2:10pm and 3:00pm

1.2 Apologies

Cr Oscar Aertssen	Region 3 Chair
Cr Judi Harris	Region 4 Chair
Cr Kevin Myers	Region 5 Chair
Cr Frank Tuckwell	Region 6 Chair

Motion: That the Apologies be accepted
Rodney Button/Peter Jamieson

Carried

1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

Nil

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Meeting held Friday, 5th June 2015

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record
Rodney Button/David Thurley

Carried

Cr David Thurley initiated a discussion about wording in the previous minutes which stated that the financial reports were confidential. Emma advised that this is an area that lacks clarity, and that a decision and some direction from the board would be helpful. A discussion followed on the distribution of Board minutes and finance reports.

David believes his council as a member council should see the financial reports. Agreement that each chairs Council, as the financial member for which the chair is delegate are entitled to see the minutes and financial reports.

Peter Jamieson suggested a summary/narrative of the financials should be produced to provide understanding of the current financial situation.

Action 2.1 (see Action Table below):

A summary of financials to be produced by the MDA Finance Manager prior to the next meeting.

- Motion:** That
- a) Board Minutes be posted on the website,
 - b) that financial reports are to be made open for members only and
 - c) that the minutes be distributed to the Chairs and their Council (the GM/CEO) .

David Thurley/Murray Wood

Carried

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Voting Rights

Broad discussion on the recommendation at Item 3.1 from Briefing Paper 348: The board adopted a number of amendments, and agreed on the following voting rights to be taken to the next National Conference and AGM.

Membership Category	Membership Rights
Local Govt/Council	Up to 3 votes (can be made by one person, and up to two proxies) May propose and/or speak to a motion
Individual Member	May propose and/or speak to a motion. May not vote at National AGM. May vote at region level. Vote represented by their member council and region.
Pensioner	May propose and/or speak to a motion. May not vote at National AGM. May vote at region level. Vote represented by their member council and region.
Life Member	1 vote. May propose and/or speak to a motion
Member of Parliament	No vote. May propose and/or speak to a motion
Small business and Not for profit community group	1 vote May propose and/or speak to a motion
Corporation and Statutory Entity	1 vote May propose and/or speak to a motion
Regional Chair	1 vote May only propose a motion endorsed and minuted by the Region

Motion: That recommendation 3.1 (above) be presented as Item 1 at the 2015 AGM for adoption by the members to clarify voting entitlements.

Peter Jamieson/Rodney Button

Carried

3.2 Confidential Item

3.3 HR Policy Package

Cr Paul Maytom requested clarification on the following points in the HR Policy Package:

- Page 65-termination of employment
- Page 66-drugs and alcohol at work

A discussion about these points occurred and the following motion was passed.

Motion: That the board

- i) adopts as policy the The Murray Darling Association Human Resources Manual
- ii) affirms the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer to amend and update the manual from time to time as required, under delegation.

Murray Wood/Rodney Button

Carried

3.4 Region Meeting Dates

Emma Bradbury noted that the new website had been launched. Many members are asking that the dates for region meetings be notified in advance. Dates can now be set for region meetings, and posted on the events calendar on the website. Dates can be set as tentative.

Motion: That all region chairs set the dates for their region meetings for the coming year, and notify the executive no later than the 30th August so that Alice Russell-Communications and Marketing Officer can put them on the website.

Rodney Button/David Thurley

Carried

3.5 Website and IT

It was noted that:

- Need to move to Office 365
- Continuing IT improvements
- New web page, face book and twitter
- Policies for the management of IT will be developed in coming months

3.6 Endorsement of Social and Economic Impacts Assessment Report

In 2014 the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) partnered with the Murray Darling Association (MDA) in a joint project focused on collecting and assessing the suitability of information available from local government organisations within the Basin to assist the MDBA to analyse the trends and drivers of economic change over time as the Basin Plan is implemented. That project is now complete. The Final Report, an output requirement under the contract is attached. This report will be distributed to all member and participating councils, and posted on the website.

Motion: That the board endorse the MDA Social and Economic Impacts report, and that it be made public.

Peter Jamieson/David Thurley

Carried

3.7 Board Member Duty Statement

Peter Jamieson suggested that the Nomination Form for a position on the MDA regional executive needed clarification. A discussion took place regarding the wording of the first sentence of the second paragraph on the form. It was agreed that all nominations of Councilors must be accompanied by a resolution from the member council for which the nominee is a delegate.

Action 3.7 (see Action Table below):

The first sentence of the second paragraph on the form will be changed to,

“All nominations of Councilors must be accompanied by a resolution for the member council for which the nominee is a delegate.”

Motion: That the board

- a) adopts as policy the Board Member Duty Statement, as attached, and
- b) approves the Nomination form, and process it articulates.
- c) affirms that all prospective nominees to the role of Chair or vice chair are to be provided with a nomination kit comprising the nomination form, a Duty Statement and a Code of Conduct.

David Thurley/Peter Jamieson

Carried

*Stan Gibney entered the meeting at 2:10pm

3.8 2015/16 Membership Fees

Emma Bradbury explained that in the past a ‘non-riparian’ discount had been applied to some membership fees. Constitution lacks any definition of riparian/non-riparian, as all LGA’s contain riparian zones if the appropriate definition of the interface between land and a river or stream is applied.

Rodney Button provided a definition of Riparian and Non-riparian categories.

Riparian: A council that is located **inside** the Murray Darling Basin catchment

Non-Riparian: A council that is located **outside** the Murray Darling Basin catchment

The fee schedule for 2014/15 was as follows (all prices noted are inclusive of GST):

\$0.24	(amendment made at subsequent board meeting no. 349: \$0.264)	per head of population capped at
\$6,050.00		Local Government
\$66.00		Individual Member
\$49.50		Concession
\$88.00		Members of Parliament
\$198.00		Small business, NFPs, and community groups
\$605.00		Corporation and Statutory Entity

Motion: That the board

- a) Adopts the above fee schedule for the 2015/16 year
- b) Explicitly extinguishes any distinction between riparian and non-riparian categories of membership
- c) Resolves that all new members will pay full rate from commencement.
- d) Phase out all discounts by 2020.

Murray Wood/David Thurley

Carried

4. REPORTS

4.1 Chairman’s Report

Cr Greg Toll provided his chairman’s report. He mentioned he has been liaising with Berrigan Shire regarding the upcoming Conference and AGM in September. Greg has also been discussing sponsorship with Region 10 Chair-Murray Wood. He suggested it would be a good idea to start organizing sponsors 12 months earlier in preparation for the 2016 Conference and AGM to be held in Region 10.

The recent meeting in Barham organized by Senator John Madigan was attended by over 1000 people with strong representation from parliamentarians, including the committee tasked to undertake the review of the Basin Plan.

Greg said he is looking forward to the MDA 71st AGM and National Conference on the 9th, 10th and 11th of September in Berrigan Shire and he is encouraging everyone to please come along.

4.2 CEO’s Report

(see attached report)

4.3 Finance Reports

Stan Gibney summarized the financial reports (see attached)

Motion: That the board accepts the Chairman's Report, CEO's Report and Finance Reports
David Thurley/Paul Maytom **Carried**

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 National Conference-Motions for AGM

9 motions have been received for the AGM. Carl Wood (previous MDA governance officer) will be engaged on a casual basis to assist in the preparation of working papers for the AGM.

Cr Peter Jamieson predicted that members at the AGM will want to know, "how the MDA is going". He suggested that as Treasurer of the MDA he will need a summary of the financial position of the MDA for the AGM.

5.2 Confidential Item

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Confidential Item

6.2 Region 7 AGM Summary

Peter Jamieson gave a brief summary of topics that were covered at the Region 7 AGM:

- Culling of fur seals
- Region 7 preferred no change of MDA Board structure
- A discussion about whether a golf tournament was appropriate for the 2015 AGM and Conference

It was noted that the 2015 AGM is a matter for Region 2, and that golf contributes very significantly to Berrigan Shire's tourism product, and to community health and well-being.

Staff left the room at 3.00pm

6.3 Late item: Letter of Complaint

Cr Greg Toll tabled a letter of complaint received from two councilors from a member council. The letter complained that a matter they had raised with the MDA through the National President, but that they had wished to keep confidential, had been handled poorly by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer has requested that the complaint be brought to the board's attention.

Board members discussed the complaint and determined that the matter related to a dispute internal to the complainants' local council; that the matter when raised with the MDA had been handled appropriately; and that complaint against the CEO was unfounded.

Motion: The board notes

- a) That the MDA will not be involved in internal council matters of member councils.
- b) That the NP respond to the complainants advising that the board had noted the letter and referred the original issue to the responsible authority

Moved/Seconded

Carried

7. NEXT MEETING: Friday the 14th of August 2015, at 9:00am (AEST)

8. MEETING CLOSED 3:15pm (AEST)