



Board Meeting 415 MINUTES

16 May 2022

Murray Darling Association Incorporated
ABN 64 636 490 493

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Meeting Commencement Time

9:30am

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Murray Darling Association acknowledges the traditional owners & custodians of country and pay our respects to the people, cultures, and elders past, present and emerging.

2. Attendance

2.1 Present

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 3
Cr Tim Elstone	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
CR Andrew Kassebaum	Berri-Barmera Council	Region 5
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 8
Cr Glen Andreazza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10A
Peter George	M&S Group	Interim Treasurer
Mark Lamb	MDA	CEO

2.2 Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr Geoff Dobson	Greater Shepparton City Council	Region 2
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12

MOTION

(Cr G Andreazza / Cr P Miller)

That the apologies be received and noted.

CARRIED

2.3 Declarations

Nil.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Refer to - Attachment 3

MOTION

(Cr G Andreazza / Cr P Miller)

That the minutes of MDA Board Meeting 414 held on 18 March 2022 be accepted as an accurate record.

CARRIED

4. Reports

G Andrezza queried whether the MDA Board would like a presentation of the Lake Coolah / Lake Mejum Project.

- D Thurley indicated that it would be beneficial for the MDA Board members to see the presentation
- G Andrezza noted that they would at the very least like to see a feasibility study, so that the MDA could make a final decision on support of the project. Indicated that they were planning to meet with the Hon Sussan Ley MP.

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair provided a verbal report noting the recent meeting with Brad Ferris as part of the MDA's CSIRO partnership project on the Circular Economy.

The Chair noted the Hume Dam's capacity as above 90% following recent rainfall, indicated that the MDBA had called a meeting to discuss management of the Dam.

The Chair referenced Region 1's membership level, indicated that there is a feeling of disconnect between many councils in Region 1 due to the MDA's focus on water in the Murray, the Darling, and tributaries.

Referenced a recent Region 1 meeting which discussed water quality, specifically low oxygen levels and manganese levels affecting fish populations and water quality.

MOTION

(Cr D Thurley / Cr G Andrezza)

That the Chair's report be noted.

CARRIED

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO provided his report for noting.

The CEO noted the conclusion of the BCLP on 31/3/22 with the MDA delivering required reports and project documentation on time. Indicated that the conclusion of the program required a BCLP report, which included an audit of the financial report, with a previous milestone report having been submitted in February 2020. The CEO noted a difficulty of documenting the two years between the Milestone 1 and Final Milestone 3 report, indicated that if the Final Milestone 3 report was successful, it would unlock the final grant payment of \$25,000.00.

- D Thurley queried whether the MDA had a means to list the participants and note what had changed their lives and community.
 - M Lamb affirmed, noted recent discussions with the Interim Treasurer Peter George regarding conducting a Dairy industry specific BCLP.

The CEO noted the MDA-CSIRO partnership project; The Circular Economy Market Analysis. Indicated that the CSIRO was working with Federal and State Governments but acknowledged that the real consultation and cooperation lay with Local Governments. Referenced recent meetings with Narromine Shire Council and AlburyCity Council, noted excellent progress.

The CEO indicated that the CSIRO intended to explore Water Quality and Plastics in future, noted that this offered an opportunity for the MDA to gain continued funding.

- D Thurley queried whether Wangaratta or Benalla may be a good venue option, encourage MDA interaction and membership.

- A Kassebaum noted that Region 5 had a large issue with Polypipe products and treated pine posts, queried whether there was something the CSIRO could do to address this issue.
 - M Lamb indicated that they were unsure what the CSIRO could do, noted that they were receptive to continuing the conversation outside of the board meeting.
 - A Kassebaum indicated that they might organise Tim Smythe to engage with M Lamb to discuss this issue further.

The CEO noted excellent progress with the 2022 78th National Conference. Indicated that the MDA had confirmed numerous Guest Speakers, including the Office of the Inspector-General for Water Compliance. M Lamb indicated that the MDA had received a grant from Destination NSW totalling to \$30,000.00 to be used for specific events and marketing.

The CEO referenced their recent attendance to a RAMJO meeting, noted the opportunity to promote MDA membership to RAMJO members.

Refer to Attachment 4.2

MOTION

(Cr D Thurley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the CEO's report be noted.

CARRIED

[Interim Treasurer Peter George arrived 9:48am]

4.3 Finance Reports

The Interim Treasurer presented the finance reports for noting.

Refer to Attachment 4.3

MOTION

(Cr D Thurley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the Finance Reports be noted.

CARRIED

5. Correspondence

5.1 Incoming

Refer to Attachment 5.1

Date	Received From	Subject
11/4/22	Max Finlayson – CSU	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
12/4/22	Brendan Murray – IXOM	MDA 2022 National Conference – Enquiry for Presentation
2/5/22	Hon Troy Grant – IGWC	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation

5.2 Outgoing

Refer to Attachment 5.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
11/4/22	Max Finlayson – CSU	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
11/4/22	Luke Friend – DPE	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
11/4/22	The Hon Troy Grant – IGWC	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
11/4/22	Michael Pisasale – MI	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
11/4/22	Megan McLeod – WSAP	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
11/4/22	GM Warren Jose – GMW	MDA 2022 National Conference – Study Tour
11/4/22	Director David McKenzie	MDA 2022 National Conference – Study Tour
19/4/22	Cr David Thurley – AlburyCity Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
19/4/22	Mayor Craig Davies – Narromine Shire Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
19/4/22	Cr Geoff Dobson – Greater Shepparton City Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
2/5/22	Cr Jason Modica – Mildura Rural City Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
3/5/22	Lynton – Dubbo Regional Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
3/5/22	Toowoomba Regional Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
4/5/22	Cr Andrew Tilley – City of Mitcham	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis

MOTION

(Cr D Thurley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the correspondence be received and noted.

6. Business Arising

6.1 Board Resolution Register

The CEO presented the Board Resolution Register for noting.

Refer to Attachment 6.1

MOTION

(Cr D Thurley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the report be noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Basin Communities Leadership Program Final Report

M Lamb noted that, with the support provided by P George, the final report would be submitted shortly.

7.2 MDA Membership and Engagement

The CEO noted that they had been engaging with councils virtually, but had put an emphasis on In-person engagement. Referenced Berrigan Shire Council, which had recently withdrawn their membership. Indicated that the MDA had been engaging with the council with a potential of renewing their membership.

- C Davies queries whether a report could go out to all councils outlining the MDA's achievements and what had been happening over the 12 months. Indicated the benefit of sending this report out in advance of the Membership Renewal date.

ACTION

Tim Phillips to prepare and distribute a report outlining the MDA's progress and achievements over the last 12 months to MDA member, and non-member councils.

7.3 Reports for Delegates

Region 9

- G Andrezza noted that Griffith had been working on a \$24,000,000.00 sporting precinct to host national events and full-time athletics. Credited the council for successfully sourcing government funding.

Region 10A

- C Davies noted the MDA's CSIRO Circular Economy Market Analysis visit.
 - Indicated that the council had been focussing on the Circular Economy, with the Narromine Shire Council's investment in material distribution centre. Noted that following the meeting with the CSIRO, the council found a lot of synergies with the CSIRO's goals, and that there were opportunities for the CSIRO and the Narromine Shire Council to engage in the Circular Economy space.
 - Noted a perceived hesitancy from the EPA when it came to Waste-to-Energy projects, noted an opportunity for this to be raised at the upcoming council of Mayors.
 - Referenced issues facing the council in the Circular Economy space;
 - A Duopoly of waste management in NSW.
 - Referenced A Kassebaum's Polypipe and Treated Pine Posts, indicated that Narromine Shire Council had been approached by a business that would be able to treat these products.
- C Davies noted that Dams were at 120% capacity and rising following the wet weather. Noted a meeting on Wednesday to discuss releases from dams to mitigate winter floods.

Region 2

- D Thurley noted that the discussions of the EPA's perceived hesitancy had also been raised during the AlburyCity Council's meeting with the MDA. Noted a need to acknowledge that the technology had changed since old practices, a need to moderate practices to identify safe practices.
 - Indicated that AlburyCity council had signed a contract with Woolworths for treating their food waste.

8. National Conference

8.1 Draft AGM Motions

A Kassebaum queried whether there was a deadline for new Motions.

- M Lamb indicated that new Motions were to be submitted by 15th August 2022 to be put to the MDA Board for final approval before the AGM.

9. Meeting Close

The Chair to declare the meeting closed at **10:20am**.