



Board Meeting 420 MINUTES

3 April 2023

Murray Darling Association Incorporated
ABN 64 636 490 493

Contents

1.	Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
2.	Attendance	3
2.1	Present.....	3
2.2	Apologies	3
2.3	Declarations.....	3
3.	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	3
4.	Reports	4
4.1	Chairman’s Report.....	4
4.2	Chief Executive Officer’s Report.....	4
4.3	Finance Reports.....	4
5.	Correspondence	5
5.1	Incoming.....	5
5.2	Outgoing.....	5
6.	Business Arising.....	5
6.1	Board Resolution Register	5
7.	General Business	6
7.1	Membership and Engagement	6
7.2	Reports for Delegates.....	7
8.	Meeting Close.....	9

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	AlburyCity Council	Region 1
Cr Geoff Dobson	Greater Shepparton City Council	Region 2
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 3
Cr Marion Browne	Broken Hill City Council	Region 4
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri-Barmera Council	Region 5
Cr Airlie Keen	Rural City of Murray Bridge	Region 6
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 8
Cr Glen Andrezza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Mayor Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Peter George	M&S Group	Interim Treasurer
Mark Lamb	MDA	CEO

2.2 Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11

2.3 Declarations

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Refer to - Attachment 3

MOTION: (A Kassebaum / M Browne)

That the minutes of MDA Board Meeting 419 held on 10 February 2023 be accepted as an accurate record.

4. Reports

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair, D Thurley, provided their report verbally.

Noted that there was little of note from their region.

Indicated that they engaged with NSW Water Minister Rose Jackson, spoke regarding recurrent funding for the Murray Darling Association (MDA). Noted that the Minister did not rule out funding. Indicated that the MDA would be seeking a meeting with the Minister soon. D Thurley noted that the status of the NSW Water Resource Plans would make the Water Minister's tenure difficult, but hoped to have things rolling as quickly as possible.

D Thurley noted that floodwaters had receded in the region, with parks and playgrounds needed refurbishment following their inundation.

MOTION: (D Thurley / A Kassebaum)

That the Chair's report be noted.

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO, M Lamb, provided their report to the Board for noting.

M Lamb noted the MDA's advocacy efforts. Indicated that advocacy continued to be a key part of the MDA. M Lamb referenced the MDA's correspondence campaign following the 2022 AGM, sent letters to, and receiving correspondence from, key Ministers and Bodies. M Lamb indicated that he was looking to turn this correspondence into face-to-face meetings. M Lamb confirmed the Chair's note of meeting with the NSW Water Minister following the NSW elections. Noted that the MDA was also scheduling a meeting with VIC Water Minister, Hon Harriet Shing.

M Lamb referenced the MDA's ongoing partnership and engagement efforts. Noted that the Association's relationship with SQNNSW and One Basin CRC was ongoing, with possibility of bearing fruit this year.

M Lamb noted that the MDA's relationship with the CSIRO was continuing to develop, with the MDA working on a new Circular Economy project.

Refer to Attachment 4.2

MOTION: (D Thurley / A Kassebaum)

That the CEO's report be noted.

4.3 Finance Reports

The Finance Reports were bypassed until 9:57am

The Treasurer, P George, provided the Finance reports to the Board for noting.

D Thurley noted that the MDA was in a better position than it was 12 months ago.

P George indicated that he and M Lamb would engage with the Auditors prior to the end of financial year in a timelier manner than the previous year.

Refer to Attachment 4.3

MOTION: (G Dobson / D Thurley)

That the Finance reports be noted.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Incoming

Refer to Attachment 5.1

Date	Received From	Subject
13/2/2023	Dr Carol Grossman A/g Branch Head – Policy and Science National Water Grid Authority and Water Infrastructure Division	MDA 2022 Motions – Exploring the potential for Managed Aquifer Recharge
24/2/2023	Jacqui Hickey Branch Head, Wetlands, Policy and Northern Water Use Commonwealth Environment Water Office	MDA 2022 Motions – Menindee Lakes RAMSAR Site
23/2/2023	Mayor Phyllis Miller	Resignation – Murray Darling Basin Community Advisory Committee

5.2 Outgoing

Refer to Attachment 5.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
6/3/2023	The Hon Harriet Shing	Introduction of the Murray Darling Association and discussion of advocacy opportunities across the Murray- Darling Basin
10/3/2023	Melissa Rebbeck	Letter of Support
16/3/2023	The Rural City of Murray Bridge	Murray Darling Association 79 th National Conference 2023
20/3/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Annette Karantoni – Woolworths GroupAlex Holt – Woolworths Group	REDcycle Plastic Waste management
20/3/2023	Mayor Phyllis Miller	RE: Resignation from the Murray Darling Association Board
20/3/2023	Melissa Rebbeck	Outgoing Region 6 Chair

D Thurley noted that a letter had been sent to H Shing, queried whether there had been a response. M Lamb indicated that the MDA had received correspondence from the Minister's office to meet with a minder. Noted that the MDA was still awaiting to meet with the minder in person.

6. Business Arising

6.1 Board Resolution Register

The Board reviewed the motions and actions completed.

D Thurley noted that Region1 wrote to the MDBA regarding the management of Hume and Dartmouth Dams during the time when the Dartmouth Dam was spilling at the same time that the Hume Dam was full. Noted that water control became a problem, with flooding a significant issue.

M Lamb noted that the MDBA had indicated that they would review their management procedures. Identified this as a great example of the effect of the MDA's advocacy.

Refer to Attachments 6.1

6.2 Election of National Executives

The Board elected the President, Vice President, and Treasurer consistent with Part 4, s8 (2), and Part 4 s7(c)(a) of the constitution.

G Dobson nominated **D Thurley for National President**.

G Andrezza seconded the nomination of D Thurley.

G Dobson nominated **C Davies for Vice President**.

G Andrezza seconded the nomination of C Davies.

G Dobson nominated **P George for Treasurer**.

G Andrezza seconded the nomination of P George.

7. General Business

7.1 Membership and Engagement

M Lamb noted the loss of Adelaide Hills Council. Indicated that he would be looking at meeting with the council to reengage them in membership.

D Thurley noted that the Mayor of Alpine Shire Council had attended a recent Region 1 meeting after many years of non-attendance. Noted that it was good to see an appetite for engagement amongst councils.

7.1.1 Application for Life Membership – John Kennedy OAM, Region 7

Region 7 supports the life membership application of John Kennedy OAM and recommends it to the board for consideration.

D Thurley indicated that this Life Membership application would be put to the **2023 AGM, 28 SEPT 2023**, Rural City of Murray Bridge.

7.1.2 Application for Individual Membership – Robin Coleman, Region 7

Region 7 supports the membership application of Robin Coleman and recommends it to the board for consideration.

MOTION: (G Andrezza / S O'Toole)

That the Board accept the Individual Membership application of Robin Coleman.

7.1.3 Withdrawal of Individual Membership – Val Maslen, Region 7

Region 7 notes the resignation of Independent Member Val Maslen and thanked her for her contribution, they request that the Board send a letter of thanks.

MOTION: (G Andrezza / S O'Toole)

That the Board accept the Individual membership withdrawal and write a letter of thanks to Val Maslen.

7.1.4 Withdrawal of Council Membership – Adelaide Hills Council, Region 7

Region 7 notes the withdrawal of Adelaide Hills Council from paid membership and thank Peter Bice for the contributions he has made, they request that the Board send a letter of thanks.

MOTION: (G Andrezza / S O’Toole)

That the Board write a letter of thanks to Peter Bice of the Adelaide Hills Council for he contributions he has made.

7.2 Reports for Delegates

The Delegate’s Report was provided to the Board for noting.

Refer to Attachment 7.2

7.3 Region Reports

The Region Chairs provided verbal reports on their regions, including ongoing flood recovery.

Region 12: Mayor Samantha O’Toole

S O’Toole thanked M Lamb for his attendance to the recent Mayors’ meeting in Queensland.

Noted that the Northern Basin was starting to dry out, indicating that this was pretty normal for entering a drying period.

Region 5: Cr Andrew Kassebaum

A Kassebaum noted business as usual for the Region.

Indicated that the council was in Budget mode to determine repair costs following the 2022 Floods.

Region 4: Cr Marion Browne

M Browne noted the recent fish kills in the region. Indicated that the Premier, environment ministers and Minister Rose Jackson were on a visit in their first full day of office. M Browne noted that this showed the importance they were giving to these issues, and consulting widely with the local residents along the river. Indicated that this was a hopeful sign.

Region 6: Cr Airlie Keen

A Keen noted that they were in a similar situation as Region 5. Indicated that the river levels were down and that farmers along the river needed to dewater the swamps that had formed. Noted this as an ongoing issue. A Keen noted that farmers were doing it tough as they needed to re-establish these lands for use. Indicated that the Departments of Water in South Australia needed to work together regarding this issue.

A Keen noted the fish kills in the region from freshwater fish flooding out to the ocean, indicated that these had now been cleaned up.

A Keen noted that communities and councils in the region were still in recovery mode.

Region 2: Cr Geoff Dobson

G Dobson indicated that the full extent of the damage following the 2022 Floods was still being assessed.

G Dobson noted that the MDA would be reviewing its Region Borders. Indicated that the next Region 2 Meeting in Corowa would be putting forward a motion to amalgamate Regions 1 and 2.

G Dobson noted that it may be worth looking at the larger regions, look at focussed membership groups.

G Dobson indicated that he would be looking at the state of the Menindee himself and hoped to provide a report as well.

Region 9: Cr Glen Andreazza

G Andreazza noted that the fish kills came up in the recent Region 9 meeting. Indicated that he hoped to have a report presented from the Government regarding what caused the fish kills, and how to manage/prevent this event in future. Referenced the numerous theories being suggested, including water oxygen imbalance.

G Andreazza noted that the flood water had receded in the Region, but that many were still in the process of pumping flooded lakes and land that were separate from the river system, as they could not drain away on their own. Noted that this process could also contribute to fish kills.

G Andreazza noted that, rising from the Region 9 meeting, he was looking for a reconciliation from the MDBA regarding the 450GL and 605GL water targets. Noted that he would like the Department to provide a reconciliation, translation of raw data, provided of what was needed and where it would come from.

G Andreazza raised the Lake Coolah project, indicated that he would like to see a feasibility study done for the project and either allow for promotion of the project, or to put it to rest. Indicated that the project would not be useful for many years, but with wet years such as this one, it would have filled by itself without the need for pumping.

D Thurley noted that what he had indicated regarding the fish kills, reconciliation regarding the 450GL, sounded like opportunities where the MDA could get in touch with relevant Ministers and Departments. Referred to the Lake Coolah project, noting that writing to the new Water Minister may be the best way forward.

G Andreazza noted that David Farley had reported to the MD Aboard in the past regarding the Lake Coolah project, indicating that the new government may be more receptive.

S O'Toole noted that there was a lot of concern by councils and communities of what would happen when the government cannot recover the 450GL water through voluntary buybacks. Indicated that this would certainly be something that needed to be raised at MINCO, as the attending Ministers should have a good idea of recovery numbers in the catchments. S O'Toole noted that there had been no talk about socio-economic impacts to the communities.

7.4 Region Border Review

The Board discussed the review of MDA Region Borders.

D Thurley noted the referenced Region 1 and 2 Meeting during the Region 2 Report. Noted that the current borders may not be entirely relevant anymore in regard to some councils, indicated that that was a valid reason to look at region structures with reference to councils that had merged since the structuring of the MDA regions.

G Dobson queried whether the Board should put together a sub-group to review this and advise the Board of their findings.

M Lamb noted support for D Thurley's comments, noted recent resignation as Chair by P Miller. Indicated a need to look at effect of distance on Region borders, as well as Member spread. M Lamb referenced Region 8, noted that it had been dormant for a few years. Noted an existing synergy between Regions 7 and 8 which may influence a merger between the two Regions.

D Thurley noted that following the upcoming joint Region 1 and 2 Meeting there may be a greater idea of how this may be done.

7.5 Performance Reviews

The Board reviewed the MDA Performance Reviews of M Lamb and T Phillips.

M Lamb provided his self-performance review document for noting and review by the Board.

D Thurley noted that M Lamb's performance review was undertaken by D Thurley, C Davies, and P George.

M Lamb noted having undertaking T Phillips' performance review prior to Board Meeting 420. Commended T Phillips on his work, proposed an amendment to T Phillips' pay.

G Andrezza commended M Lamb and T Phillips for their efforts.

Refer to Attachment 7.5

The following FLYING MINUTE was circulated to Board Members per email following Board Meeting 420, 3/04/2023.

CARRIED

Further to this morning's Board meeting (420) I would like to recommend that the MDA increase Tim Phillips annual salary by 10% in recognition of cost-of-living increases and job performance.

8. Meeting Close

The Chair to declare the meeting closed at 10:24am.