



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Ordinary Meeting of the Board 29/04/2019

<https://zoom.us/j/909306080>

MINUTES - MEETING No. 385

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Greg McKenzie	Shepparton Council	Guest
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Guest
Steve Loane - GM	Forbes Shire Council	Guest
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Pete George	M&S Group	Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO

1.2 Apologies

Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Dennis Patterson	Shepparton Council	Guest

Motion: That the apologies be accepted.
M Rebbeck/P Hunter

Carried

1.3 Declarations

Cr J MacAllister - Item 5.2 - National Conference 2020
G McKenzie - Item 5.2 - National Conference 2020

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 [Meeting 384](#) held 25th March 2019

Motion: That the minutes of meeting 384 be adopted as an accurate account of the meeting.
P Maytom/ A Tilley

Carried

3. REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's report

Cr Thurley reflected on the importance of water as a critical issue in the Basin electorates at the upcoming federal election, with none more so than in the electorate of Farrer. David noted that the election campaign has become quite unedifying in that seat, with a brick thrown the window of sitting member Sussan Farrer's electorate office, and posters defaced.

3.2 Finance reports – attached

Emma provided comment on events that will be reflected in the April financial reports, providing for increased financial stability in the year ahead including receipt of project funding, and membership growth.

Motion: That the Finance report be noted and accepted by the board.

M Rebbeck/ P Hunter

Carried

3.3 Chief Executive Officer's report - attached

3.4 Region reports

Region 9 – Cr Maytom reported that he recently attended the 'Pause the Plan Meeting' at Griffith, noting that he attended this meeting as an observer only in his role as Region 9 Chair of the MDA, and did not participate in the vote held on the night with regards to pausing the plan or continuing with the current plan.

Motion: That the reports be noted and accepted by the board.

P Maytom/ P Hunter

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- 4.1 384 4.2 Letter to all Basin Ministers and opposition
- 4.2 Strategic Plan – draft
- 4.3 384 6.7.1 Position on buy-backs
- 4.4 384 6.7.2 Position on SA Royal Commission
- 4.5 384 7 Membership approval process
- 4.6 Region meeting agenda template and process – Video conferencing

- All items carried forward for completion in May.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Budget 2019

The chairing committee of each region noted receipt of a detailed report outlining the financial contribution of member councils in their regions. Regions have been asked to identify any councils who can or should be invited to become financial members for 2019/2020.

The local government membership fees in 2018/19 were calculated at \$ 0.2911 per head of population, capped at \$6,334.50 plus GST.

Motion: That 2019/2020 fees are set at \$ 0.305 per head of population, capped at \$6,681.82 plus GST, with population for each municipality based on 2016 census data.

J MacAllister/ J Campbell

Carried

5.2 National Conference 2020

Item 5.3 will be considered as last item of the meeting.

5.3 Clarence River Diversion and Bradfield's Scheme

The CEO noted that the MDA continues to receive enquiry and recommendations for any updates on consideration of the Clarence River Diversion, and the Bradfield's Scheme.

At the 2016 MDA AGM it was resolved that the MDA promotes an investigation at a national level into the future needs of water users to accommodate the predicted population growth and economic development, that will consider schemes including the Clarence River Diversion.

At the 2017 ALGA NGA it was resolved to call on the Federal Government to carry out a further feasibility study on David Coffey's "Scheme to Divert Tributaries of the Clarence River to the Murray Darling Basin" to gather up-to-date information for investigation into this scheme.

The government's position on the Clarence River Diversion was made clear in a response from the then Water Minister, the Hon Barnaby Joyce on 05 October 2017.

The MDA has not considered a position on the Bradfield Scheme. However, recent rain events in North Queensland coupled with the continuing drought across large parts of the Murray Darling Basin, and the current election campaign has seen discussion on these issues reignited.

A report on the current status of the Clarence River Diversion including a copy of the letter from then Minister Joyce, and on the Bradfield's Scheme was tabled and discussed.

Motion: That the board note the briefing report on the status of the Clarence River Diversion and the Bradfield's Scheme.

D Thurley/P Hunter

Carried

6. MEMBERSHIP APPROVALS

6.3 Membership receipts

Nil

7. STRATEGY/EVENTS

7.3 Strategic Advisory Committee

The strategic advisory group has not met.

7.4 ALGA 2019

The MDA will have an exhibition stand at the ALGA NGA in Canberra 16-19 June.

Jane acknowledged the importance of the relationship between the MDA and the ALGA as well as other LGA's. It was noted that the MDA continue to correspond with these organisations particularly in the area of support letters from these organisations.

7.5 Projects/grants

MDBEDP – The Murray Darling Association's application for funding for the 'Murray Darling Association Basin Communities Leadership Program' has been approved under the Murray- Darling Basin Economic Development Program (the program).

Approval has been granted to support the project in all 15 communities eligible under the MDBEP with funding of up to \$500,000 (GST exclusive).

The funding provider – Department of Agriculture and Water Resources have advised that the caretaker period will not delay the negotiation process and they expect to finalize the agreements between June and August 2019 with all projects expected to commence next financial year.

5.3 National Conference 2020

Hosting rights for the 2020 National Conference will be determined by resolution of the board, following consideration of proposals received from City of Greater Shepparton and Wentworth Shire Council.

Copies of the two proposals have been received by the executive. A confidential email containing links to the proposals will be sent separately to those board members eligible to vote.

A determination will be made at or before the May meeting.

Cr MacAllister made a few brief comments welcoming the MDA to consider their proposal and enjoy the fruits of the region in 2020.

Mr McKenzie was unable to be rejoined to the meeting to do likewise.

Note: J MacAllister and G McKenzie then left the meeting for further discussion around item 5.2.

It was agreed that the decision regarding the conference be made by collaboration, and announced at meeting 386. Board members should feel free to ask any additional questions in the meantime, and the CEO will schedule a meeting of eligible board members to the matter and receive a briefing if required.

8. CLOSE