



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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**Ordinary Meeting of the Board
1.30pm, 25th November 2016
Location: Skype from Albury**

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING No. 362

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Region 1	Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council
Region 4	Mr Peter Kozlowski	Wentworth Shire Council
Region 6	Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council
Region 7	Cr Peter Jamieson	City of Port Adelaide Enfield
Region 8	Mayor Denis Clark	Northern Regions Council
Region 9	Mayor Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council
MDA	Emma Bradbury	CEO

David extended a warm welcome to Denis Clark, interim chair of Region 8 to his first meeting of the board and thanked him and the Northern Regions Council for stepping into the role.

1.2 Apologies

Region 2	Vacant	
Region 3	Mayor Leigh Byron	Balranald Shire Council
Region 5	Mr Russell Peate	Mid-Murray Council
Region 10	Vacant	
Region 11	Vacant	
Region 12	Vacant	

**Motion: That the apologies be accepted
P Maytom/B Featherston**

Carried

1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

Nil

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Meeting held 26/09/2016 10.00am via skype

**Motion: That the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.
B Featherston/P Maytom**

Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Northern Basin trip

Noted that Emma will travel to Toowoomba 28/11/2016 – return Brisbane 02/12/2016 for meetings and engagement with South West Qld LGA – Member councils incl Bulloo Shire, Quilpie Shire, Murwah Shire, Paroo Shire, Maranoa Regional Council, and Balonne Shire. Further meeting with Namoi Councils Joint Organization - Member Councils: Gwydir Shire, Gunnedah Shire, Liverpool Plains Shire, Moree Plains Shire, Narrabri Shire, Tamworth Regional, Walcha Council, and associate member: Uralla Shire Council.

Also meeting with Goodiwindi Shire Council, Southern Downs Regional Council, QMDC and SEGRA. Meetings to re-engage Northern Basin, and seek member feedback on the recommendations for amendments to the plan following the release of the Northern Basin review. Emma to report outcomes to the Board on return.

3.2 Ratification of decisions by electronic/telephone communications

Several resolutions were made by the board during September/October using electronic and telephone communications. These resolutions should be ratified.

3.2.1 Final draft of Constitution prior to AGM

Motion: That the board approve the final draft of the Constitution to be put to the membership at the 2016 AGM, subject to several minor grammatical changes as noted by R6.
This motion passed by electronic and phone communication.

3.2.2 Receival of Annual Report

Motion: That the board receive the Annual Report
This motion passed by electronic and phone communication.

3.2.3 Approval of the Annual Financial Statement

Motion: That the board approve the 2016/17 Annual Financial Statement
This motion passed by electronic and phone communication.

Motion: That the board ratify the motions noted.
P Jamieson/B Featherston

Carried

3.3 Funding engagement for BPISIAF project.

Update provided on the progress of this project. Now seeking funding and awaiting the release of the 2016 Census data.

3.4 Application for re-registration of Charitable Status for the Foundation

Notice has been received by the registrar of the ACNC that they may refuse our application for renewal based on their assessment that the Applicant is a government entity. This assessment is based on the information contained in our application, the requirements of the relevant legislation and the information available to the assessment team, including the Constitution of the MDA.

Section 5(d) of the Charities Act 2013 (Cth) (Charities Act) states that an entity that is a government entity is not a charity.

Some discussion around the steps taken to date to re-establish the committee of the Foundation. It was noted that all attempts have been unsuccessful. Peter was keen to ensure that the path remained open to reapply if any when the Foundation is re-established.

Motion: That the MDA

- a) **withdraw its application for charitable status, reserving the right to re-submit when the Foundation resumes charitable activities, and**
- b) **put out a further call for the re-establishment of a Foundation Committee.**

P Maytom/D Clark

Carried

4. REPORTS

4.1 Regions Reports and updates

4.2

Region 1 AGM held earlier today. David re-elected to chair unopposed, and a committee elected. Dates set for Region 1's meetings for the year ahead.

Region 2 Des Bilske's retirement noted. Discussions ongoing with potential replacement lead council.

Region 3 Next meeting to be held in Loddon Shire, Monday 23 Jan. Mayor Neil Beaty/CEO Phil Pinyon.

Region 4

Region 5 Plans for AGM commencing, with the appointment of East Coast Conferences to coordinate.

Region 6

Region 7

Region 8 New chair, Mayor Denis Clark, Northern Regions Council. Inaugural meeting pending.

Region 9 Region 9's AGM held 23/11/16. Mayor Paul Maytom re-elected, providing consistency and continuity in a time of great change. Committee also elected. Dates set for Region 9's meetings for the year ahead.

Region 10, 11, 12. Meetings continuing to engage chairing councils.

4.2.1 Region Meeting schedules

Request for all regions to set the schedule for their meetings for the year ahead at their next region meeting.

4.2.2 Region AGMs

Note for all regions to ensure that they schedule their AGM's as required to ensure compliance with the constitution.

4.2.3 Council/officer roles and involvement

4.2.3.1 Issues papers

Process for the development, communication and distribution of regional issues needs to be structured and consistent if the MDA is to continue to develop credible and effective advocacy process. Local knowledge and information on local issues needs to be written at the local level, and to a standard that enables effective advocacy. Use of issues papers, developed with councilors and officers and to progress issues at regional level is encouraged.

4.2.3.2 Secretariat

The councils of region chairs commit to provide sufficient secretariat support to facilitate the quarterly region meetings. It would be valuable for the MDA executive/admin to have a clear understanding of the contact points for each of these.

Next meeting of the board be a face to face event, with a board workshop built in to consider the development of some consistent key administrative and communications processes.

Motion: That the CEO prepare a meeting/workshop program for a date in Feb/March to be held in Adelaide and to align with the next meeting of the Board.

D Thurley/B Featherston

Carried

4.3 Chief Executive Officer's report

Tabled

05/10/16	Murray Darling Basin Forum – LGA SA, Adelaide (skype)
18/10/16	Conclusion of 4 year term, Councillor w Campaspe Shire
19/10/16	Meeting, Barry Hart, Board Member MDBA
24-24/10/16	National Conference and AGM, Dubbo
14/11/16	GMID Water Summit, Tatura
15/11/16	Host MC 2016 Women in Water event, Deniliquin
19/11/16	Ballarat Council – prelim meeting and request for presentation
22/11/16	Goulburn-Murray Water Strategic Advisory Cmty meeting, Tatura
23/11/16	Region 9 AGM, Leeton
25/11/16	Region 1 AGM, Albury

4.4 Finance Report

Peter Jamieson expressed concern for the current financial circumstances of the MDA and was particularly anxious about the finance report, specifically where it is noted that

At the time of writing, we anticipate that we will be able to meet our known commitments to 30 June 2017; this assumption includes receiving some advance payments against 2017/18 membership subscriptions – as occurred during June 2016.

Expressed his concern that he does not have a clear picture of the finances, noting also that the board should be provided with a current budget forecast and a comparison of budget to actual expenditure YTD, and that this information be included in the monthly reports to the Board. (This information is contained in the Summary Business Overview, distributed with meeting papers.)

Emma suggested that at the next (face to face) Board meeting in Adelaide, time should be provided in the program for the board to review the financial reports to develop a shared understanding of the current financial position and priorities of the association, and to review the budget.

It was also noted that the establishment of a finance subcommittee (see item 5.3) will further support an appropriate means to address concerns raised.

Motion: That the reports be accepted.

D Thurley/P Kozlowski

Carried

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 MDA Brand – Local government LGA

Emma noted that following the adoption of the new constitution, increasing emphasis is being made of our position as a local government peak body, and our communication strategy is reflecting this.

5.2 Renewal of premises lease

Premises lease renewal is due. Parks Victoria have invited us to exercise our second 2 year option, and have quite generously offered to waive the CPI increase, holding the price at the current level for the term of the second option.

Motion: That the board authorize the CEO to exercise the second option on the current lease.

D Clark/P Maytom

Carried

5.3 Finance committee

Emma suggested that a finance subcommittee be established to provide advice to the board that may assist in meeting current obligations and future objectives.

Motion: That Terms of Reference be drafted and distributed to the board for further consideration.

P Maytom/P Jamieson

Carried

5.4 2017 National Conference and AGM Committee

Emma advised that East Coast Conferences has been engaged to assist with the preparation of the 2017 National Conference and AGM to be held in Renmark, SA. Suggested that a committee be delegated to meet regularly to contribute to the planning. Barry and David nominated to contribute. Recommend a delegate from R9 also, to facilitate better planning for 2018.

6. NEXT MEETING

6.1 Date and location – board meeting and workshop

Tentatively set for March in Adelaide. Emma to prepare a program and distribute to Board for review.

7. CLOSE

2.30pm