



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Ordinary Meeting of the Board #367
10.30am AEST Thursday 3rd August 2017
Location: Desktop – GoTo Meeting

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING No. 367

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley (Chair)	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Cr Leigh Byron	Balranald Shire Council	Region 3
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr David Shetliffe	Adelaide Metro	Region 7
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Shire Council	Region 6
Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Assoc	CEO
Annette Waters**	Murray Darling Assoc	Administration Trainee

* Attendance via phone

** Non-board member – attendance by invitation

1.2 Apologies

Cr Darriea Turley	Broken Hill City Council	Region 4
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Pete George	M&S Group Accounting	Treasurer
Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire	Region 12

Motion: That the apologies be accepted

P Hunter/P Maytom

Carried

1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

None declared

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 That the minutes of Meeting 366 held Thursday 6th June 2017, via GoTo Meeting be accepted.

B Featherston/P Hunter

Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Request for consent – Hunter Waters Corporation logo

Sparke Helmore Lawyers representing Hunter Water Corporation NSW requested a letter from the MDA consenting to the use and registration of the trademark logo in their current Australian trademark

application. The proposed logo is visually similar to the MDA's WATER WISE logo registered in South Australia.

By ordinary resolution, the board resolved via electronic communication to provide the requested consent, for the following reasons.

1. The design is not so similar as to be likely to create confusion among consumers, members, or customers
2. The profile, governance and conduct of the Hunter Water Corporation NSW are unlikely to present any risk of adverse reputational impact to MDA by any potential association of the two logos. Any such association would be more likely to be favorable to both brands and provide mutual benefit in terms of profile elevation.
3. To withhold consent would be inconsistent with the MDA's stated objective of building relationships with stakeholders of the water services sector across our member states.

Motion: That the board endorse the motion previously resolved via electronic communication to provide a Letter of Consent to Hunter Water Corporation, noting also that MDA commends Hunter Water on their commitment delivering safe, affordable, reliable water services to the community; and to providing educational services in the field of water conservation, and is pleased to support these important objectives.

D Shetliffe/P Hunter

Carried

3.2 **'Membes' Software**

The MDA has considered the purchase of a cloud based Association Software available as SaaS (Software as a Service), integrating multiple membership-based association data management requirements. Continuing research reveals that further work may yet reveal a better suited option. Work is continuing.

Board agreed that efficient management of membership data and communications is essential to the MDA's continuing operations.

The required software will be purchased as a CapEx, under delegation in accordance with Policy 1.

Noted.

3.3 **National Conference – update**

Planning for the conference is continuing with RPC's contribution and involvement providing all indications for a sound event.

Emma advised that following discussions with GM at Leeton Shire, they have confirmed that they will be hosting 2018 on behalf of Region 9, with a commitment to involve their events coordinator on the committee for the remainder of the planning for 2017.

David suggested the Regions need to commence marketing in accordance with the Action Plan set out by the committee.

Noted

4. **REPORTS**

4.1 **Region Reports**

Region 1 Albury City Council

No meeting. Radio interview ABC Overnight. Listen on podcast
<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/overnights/the-murray-darling-basin/8765738>

Region 2 Moira Shire Council

Region 2 meeting. Resolved to call on MDA, MRGC, and RAMROC to collaborate on local government representation. Executives to meet.

Next meeting to be held in Barmah, consider issues of environmental watering in the Barmah Forest.

Region 3 Balranald Shire Council

No meeting – Swan Hill has resolved not to renew it's membership.

The board noted correspondence from Loddon Shire in response to media.

Region 4 Broken Hill Shire Council

Meeting notes supplied by Cr Turley, copy tabled. Next meeting in August in Wentworth.

Region 5 Renmark Paringa Council

R5 meeting has engaged all councils to provide issues papers for the regional profile reports.

Region 6 Alexandrina Shire Council

R6 to meet with inter-governmental task force on climate change to discuss policy direction. Barry unavailable to chair the next meeting. Vern Leng to Chair. Emma will attend via video link.

Region 7 Walkerville Town Council

Region 8 Northern Areas Council

Apology

Region 9 Leeton Shire Council

Paul to address the Rice Growers association conference, speaking on the important role of the MDA. Meeting to be attended also by Philip Glyde.

Region 10

Region 11

Region 12 Balonne Shire Council

Emma reported on the inaugural meeting of Region 12. Minutes will be circulated.

Motion: That the region reports be accepted.

B Featherston/P Hunter

Carried

4.2 **Chief Executive Officer report**

Motion: That the CEO's report be accepted.

4.3 **Finance and Treasurer report**

Emma noted that the transition between MYOB and Xero, and the transition between the Finance Manager and the treasurer is still in progress, and that a full report is unavailable. Interim report tabled and Emma advised that cash flows are good, with no surprises looming.

Emma stated a clear commitment to ensure that reports are back on track by next month, and that the good work and strict accountabilities achieved over the last couple of years not be allowed, or seen to be allowed to slip.

D Shetliffe asked if there were any matters of significance the board should be aware of. Emma noted that membership income receipts are high, cash flow very solid, and no unexpected or unfavorable issues are known or anticipated.

Motion: That acceptance of the Finance report be deferred until the next meeting.

P Mansfield/D Shetliffe

Carried

5. General Business

5.1 Case for representation on Minco or BOC

Board discussed the MDA's response to the Four Corners report, noting that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is an essential but complex plan, the implementation of which impacts different communities in different ways, and impacts different sectors within communities in different ways.

Local government has the technical capacity and local knowledge required to understand, balance, plan for, and serve the various and often competing needs and interests that exist within and across our local communities.

Local government is the third level of government in Australia, and has a valuable and essential role in working with our state and federal counterparts to provide local knowledge and context to support more informed policy development and decision making in relation to the ongoing implementation of the Basin Plan.

As the only level of government that does not have the benefit of a parliamentary framework, local government is represented across those states that are party to the agreement by its peak body the Murray Darling Association.

Motion: That the Murray Darling Association continue to seek representation at Ministerial Council in an advisory capacity, and on the Basin Official Committee in a contributory capacity to provide more direct local content in the decisions relating to the Murray Darling Basin.

B Featherstone/D Shetliffe

Carried

5.2 MDAs Position on the 450 GL

The statement that "...So and so....is committed to delivering the Basin Plan on time, in full." Means different things to different people, and therefore can be divisive and unhelpful.

Board members agreed that the MDA is committed to seeing the Basin Plan delivered in accordance with the provisions contained within the legislation as it is written, recognizing the inherent provisions for adjustment of sustainable diversion limits.

5.3 Support for the recommendations arising out of the Northern Basin Review

It was noted that Northern Basin Regions are committed to ensure that the recommendations of the northern basin review are implemented, and specifically the recommendation that there be a reduction of take from 390GL to 320GL. Support for the recommendation was generally agreed, however further details were sought prior to making a resolution by consensus. Input from the Northern chair/s will be valued, and Emma to provide a briefing paper including greater detail of the review to enable southern Basin regions to make a fully informed decision on the matter.

5.4 National Carp Control Plan

Following the MDA's participation in a NCCP communications strategy workshop in Canberra last month, a recommendation will be put to the FRDC Board that a partnership arrangement with the MDA to support NCCP stakeholder engagement with Councils and communities be established.

The FRDC Board will meet Monday 14 August to determine the scope and resourcing for any such arrangement.

In response to a number of questions raised, Emma provided the following information in relation to the NCCP

- Carp Control Plan process still at the stage of determining IF, not WHEN a virus may be released.
- Local government will have a key roll in informing communications.
- FRDC have confirmed that any implementation will not impose a cost burden on local government in relation to any implementation or clean up elements, but looking to work with local government to plan for effective and efficient third party clean ups.

5.5 Hotel Grand Chancellor for noting

Hotel Grand Chancellor corporate rates offer was noted.

5.6 Region Meetings Four Meetings per year

Cr Mansfield raised the issue of the burden on regions of complying with constitution requirement for at least 4 times per year. P Mansfield proposed that either we review the constitution to reduce the requirement to 3, or that the AGM should count as one of those meetings.

Further discussion determined that the planning for all National Conferences in future will provide the opportunity for regions to meet at that time, in advance of the AGM.

This will require modification of the region meeting schedules, and for secretariats to plan accordingly.

5.7 Confirm Date for the October board meeting

October board meeting to be held 1pm Tuesday 10th October in Renmark.

5.8 Business case for recurrent finance

P Mansfield suggested the MDA should make a submission to the Federal Government regarding ongoing financial support.

Motion: That MDA commence work to identify a suitably qualified partner to assist in the development of a business case for recurrent government funding for the MDA.

P Mansfield/B Featherstone

Carried

6 NEXT MEETING

6.4 7th September 10.30am AEST – (digital)

7 CLOSE 12.07pm