



Murray Darling Association Inc.

admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493

463 High Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

3rd Floor, 553 Kiewa Street
P.O. Box 359
Albury, NSW 2640

Ordinary Meeting of the Board #368
10.30am AEST Thursday 7th September 2017
Location: Desktop – GoTo Meeting

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING No. 368

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cr David Thurley (Chair) | Albury City Council | Region 1 |
| Cr Leigh Byron | Balranald Shire Council | Region 3 |
| Cr Darriea Turley* | Broken Hill Council | Region 4 |
| Cr Peter Hunter | Renmark Paringa Council | Region 5 |
| Cr Barry Featherstone | Alexandrina Shire Council | Region 6 |
| Cr David Shetliffe | Adelaide Metro | Region 7 |
| Cr Paul Maytom | Leeton Shire Council | Region 9 |
| Pete George | Murray Darling Assoc | Treasurer |
| Emma Bradbury | Murray Darling Assoc | CEO |
| Angus Verley** | Murray Darling Assoc | Senior Officer |
| Annette Waters** | Murray Darling Assoc | Administration Trainee |

* Attendance via phone

** Non-board member – attendance by invitation

1.2 Apologies

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Cr P Mansfield | Moira Shire Council | Region 2 |
| Cr D Clarke | Northern Areas Council | Region 8 |
| Cr R Marsh | Balonne Shire | Region 12 |

Motion: That the apologies be accepted

L Byron/P Maytom Carried

1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

None declared

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 That the minutes of Meeting 367 held Thursday 3rd August 2017, via GoTo Meeting be accepted.

P Maytom/D Shetliffe Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Case for representation on Minco or BOC

We continue to make a case for this representation at every opportunity, including in meetings with various stakeholders and in various written material such as media releases, submissions and policy documents.

We are eager to emphasise that 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.

Noted

Carried

4. REPORTS

4.1 Region Reports

Region 1 Albury City Council
Presentation ... guest speaker Dr. Terry Hilton

Region 2 Moira Shire Council
Apology

Region 3 Balranald Shire Council

Region 4 Broken Hill Shire Council

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

Region 7 Walkerville Town Council
Attached

Region 8 Northern Areas Council
Apology

Region 9 Leeton Shire Council
Cr Paul Maytom reported on Region 9s progress and the EWAGs positive and beneficial meeting. Cr P Maytom has recently been nominated to serve on Murrumbidgee Customer Advisory Group.

Region 10

Region 11

Region 12 Balonne Shire Council

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

Motion: That the Finance report be accepted.

D Shetliffe/L Byron

Carried

5. General Business

5.1 Allegations of non-compliance in the Northern Basin

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.

Motion:

That the MDA:

1. Maintains its support for the Basin Plan and the fair and equitable implementation of it.
2. Maintain its call for an independent judicial inquiry in response to allegations of non-compliance and possible corruption.
3. Accept any opportunity to participate in the MDBA review if it is offered.

P Hunter/D Shetliffe

Carried

5.2 National Carp Control Plan Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

The MDA is please to be involved In the NCCP Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

5.3 MDA input into MDBA review of the Regional Engagement Officer program

Emma reported that there had been mixed results under the existing program, with inconsistent hosting arrangements contributing to the issues. Feedback to Dianne Flett during her review included a discussion on the importance of clear and equitable hosting arrangements.

Board members also reported mixed experiences with the REO program, with some having had positive experiences and others having had very little engagement or poor experiences. Members asked whether REOs were expected to meet key performance indicators.

Motion: That the Board authorises the CEO to engage in further discussions on practical measures to strengthen the REO program if invited to do so.

D Shetliffe/Barry Featherston

Carried

5.4 MDA Submission to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Environmental Water

This submission was lodged on Wednesday, August 31. The submission recommends *inter alia* that the Victorian Government invest in greater consultation with local government to improve outcomes from environmental watering.

Motion: That the Board endorses the submission.

P Hunter/D Thurley

Carried

5.4 Request from Adrian Wells for the use of water owned by the MDA

The Board noted the report from the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group outlining their current endeavours in relation to a number of projects, and their interest in liaising with the MDA to discuss management options for the MDA's water holdings. The Board encouraged further work to be done on a program design and detail be submitted to the MDA prior to any further consideration of the matter.

5.6 Fact Sheet for endorsing

The MDA is in process of preparing a Fact Sheet that would serve to demonstrate to councils why they should be members of the MDA. The Fact Sheet highlights the Basin-wide projects and initiatives that the MDA is involved in and needs to be informed by local government on.

Motion: That the Board accept the inclusion of the listed items on a flyer to be distributed by the MDA.

L Byron/D Shetliffe

Carried

5.7 CEO's annual performance review

Emma raised the need for the board to undertake the CEO's annual performance appraisal. The Board will appoint the chair, deputy chair and treasurer to undertake a performance review, and need to be in consultation with all members of the board.

Motion: That the Board appoint the chair, deputy chair and treasurer to form a subcommittee to undertake a performance review of the CEO in consultation with the members of the board.

B Featherston/ P Maytom

Carried

5.6 Murray River Erosion Management Plan between South Corowa and the Confluence with the Ovens River.

General discussion regarding the stakeholder consultation for this plan, which is being jointly prepared by Roads and Maritime Services and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Motion: That the board note the report

P Maytom/D Shetliffe

Carried

5.9 Report from the MDBA Peak Bodies Representatives meeting in Canberra.

Emma and David took part in a Peak Bodies Representatives meeting hosted by the MDBA on August 31. The meeting was an opportunity to hear about where the Basin Plan is up to, and share MDA ideas and concerns about the Plan's implementation.

Motion: That the Board note the report.

D Thurley/B Featherston

Carried

5.10 Independent analysis of the Basin Plan.

MDA (Emma) met with Ernst Young as part of their peak bodies engagement in Canberra. General discussion regarding the Board's views on efficiency measures, water infrastructure projects, positive and negative impacts of the Basin Plan and what could be done to minimise these negative impacts.

Motion: That the Board note the report.

D Shetliffe/P Maytom

Carried

5.11 Discussion on how to recognise volunteers across the Basin at the National Conference

General discussion regarding how other councils throughout the Basin recognise their local volunteers. Board members encouraged to work in partnership offline.

5.12 National Conference registrations

The national conference is fast approaching, with less than 5 weeks to go. The MDA encourages all Board members to invite delegates within their regions along to the National Conference.

5 NEXT MEETING

10th October 1.00pm Renmark, SA - (in person)

6 CLOSE 11.56 am