



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

Ordinary Meeting of the Board
10.30am, Monday 24th September, 2018
<https://zoom.us/j/892800363>

MINUTES - MEETING No. 379

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4 (proxy)
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr David Shetliffe	Town of Walkerville	Region 7
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
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 Melisa Hederics	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
--------------------	-------------------------	----------

1.3 Declarations

Item 5.1.3 – CEO declared a potential conflict.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Meeting 378 held 5.30pm Tuesday 28th August 2018

Motion: That the [Minutes of Meeting 378](#) held Tuesday 28th August, 2018 be accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

P Hunter/P Maytom

Carried

3. REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported on a meeting held earlier in the month with David Thurley, MDA Chief Executive

Officer, Emma Bradbury and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' Paul Morris to discuss resolutions that came out of the 74th MDA Annual General Meeting. This meeting was a catch-up prior to a meeting scheduled in Canberra on October 8th.

The Chair recently completed three days of induction with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Basin Community Committee. Four of the 16 positions are representatives from local government, with feedback welcomed. A communique relating to the committee's next meeting, scheduled for mid-November, will be released publicly, with other meetings scheduled for November, December, March and April.

Motion: That the Chairman's Report is noted.

D Thurley/J MacAllister

Carried

3.2 Finance Reports

(Attachments 1 and 2)

The profit and loss reports for July 2018 and August 2018 were presented.

Although income from the 74th National Conference was slightly under budget in August, this figure is will increase to \$20,000 above the budgeted figure in the September reports. Expenses are forecast to remain at similar figures to last year's event.

Motion: That the Finance Reports are noted.

P George/D Shetliffe

Carried

3.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Appointments/tasks

August 27th

- Interview with ABC Riverina Breakfast presenter, Anne Delaney

August 28th

- Travel to Leeton
- 74th National Conference planning committee meeting, Leeton Soldiers Club
- Board Meeting 378 and informal dinner, Leeton Soldiers Club

August 29th to 31st

- 74th National Conference and AGM, Leeton Soldiers Club

September 3rd

- Training assessment, Annette Waters
- Windscreen replacement, Novus Echuca
- Feedback and thank you's to presenters and guests
- Preparation of correspondence out re 2018 AGM Motions
- Establish resolutions tracker web page

September 10th

- Telstra, NBN package for Echuca office

September 11th

- Region 11 inaugural ordinary meeting, Gwydir Shire Council chambers, Bingara NSW (online attendance)

September 13th

- 75th National Conference planning committee meeting (online attendance)

September 14th

- EMFM community radio broadcast, monthly MDA segment
- Compliance lodgment completed
 - Form A12-T1 – Annual Summary of Financial Affairs

- Form T9 – Change of Address of Public Officer
- Form A6 – Application to change Objects or Constitution (2018 AGM, Motion 5.14)
- Register of Environmental – statistical return

September 17th

- Overview of motions/objectives from 74th AGM
 - Paul Morris - First Assistant Secretary, Water (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources)
 - Cr David Thurley – National President, Murray Darling Association
 - Emma Bradbury – Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association

September 18th

- Telstra, NBN transition
- Skillset, collaboration on project opportunities

September 19th

- Pete George, Murray Darling Association treasurer

Meetings will be held in early October with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Murray-Darling Basin Authority, CSIRO, New South Wales Department of Industry and Snowy Hydro in relation to resolutions from the 74th AGM.

Motion: That the Chief Executive Officer’s Report be noted.

D Thurley/P Hunter

Carried

3.4 Region reports

Region chairs spoke to current issues/events in their regions:

Region 2 – A meeting occurred on September 21st, with a key topic being the transferring of water and rules determining the allocation of water in different States.

Region 4 – A region meeting will be held on September 27th, building on discussions that occurred at the National Conference.

Region 6 – Delegates from a number of regions discussed how to gain a better understanding on upstream river issues, with the management of Menindee Lakes an example. An informal meeting at Mildura for representatives from downstream regions has been proposed.

Region 7 – The October 25th meeting will be Cr David Shetliffe’s last as chair of Adelaide Metro after deciding not to seek re-election in the Town of Walkerville elections. The region’s Annual General Meeting will occur at some time after November due to the South Australia local government elections.

Region 8 – A meeting was scheduled to occur in September but was postponed due to a lack of numbers.

Region 9 – It is important for the MDA to be aware when councils appoint new Chief Executive Officers and General Manager as these people are the conduit between the MDA and councillors.

Motion: That the Region reports be received and noted.

D Thurley/B Featherston

Carried

11.04am Cr Peter Mansfield left meeting

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Report on AGM motions

Board meeting 377 – item 4.3 noted an action that update on progress arising from motions passed at AGMs to be available on MDA website. This action has been completed, enabling members and potential members to be kept updated on [resolutions](#) arising from the 74th Annual General Meeting.

Motion: That notification of the resolutions tracker web page be sent out to all members and announced via the newsletter.

P Hunter/J Campbell

Carried

Motion: That correspondence sent to State and Federal Ministers as a result of resolutions from the 74th Annual General Meeting also be distributed to their opposition counterpart for consideration.

J MacAllister/P Hunter

Carried

4.2 Conference 2018

Board members provided feedback on the 74th National Conference and Annual General Meeting, held at Leeton from August 29th to 31st.

4.3 Conference 2019

4.3.1 Theme

The Board considered *“ReGeneration... for a healthy Basin”* as the theme for the 2019 National Conference. The theme supports presentations on the following issues:

- Natural resource management;
- Renewable energy opportunities;
- Regenerative agriculture;
- Climate change;
- Economic development opportunities;
- Social and economic stability and adaptation;
- Basin Plan - continuing implementation;
- Supply and efficiency measure projects and investment;
- Carp control and other pest management plans (National Carp Control Plan and others);
- Local government – generational diversity and engagement; and
- Many more

The theme also aligns with the MDA’s current organisational context:

- 75th jubilee event – looking forward; and
- Foundations for strategic plan 2020–2025.

Motion: That the board adopt for the 2019 National Conference and AGM the theme *ReGeneration... for a healthy Basin*.

J MacAllister/P Hunter

Carried

4.3.2 Calendar of key dates

Motion: That the 75th National Conference be held from Tuesday, October 22nd to Thursday, October 24th, 2019.

D Thurley/B Featherston

Carried

4.4 Conference 2020

Expressions of Interest for regions to host the 76th National Conference close by the distribution of meeting for Board Meeting 381 [November 26th, 2018].

Emma advised that Region 2 resolved, at their meeting on Friday 24th September to endorse an expression of interest from the City of Greater Shepparton to host . Minutes pending.

David Shetliffe advised that he had received an enquiry from City of Playford and anticipated a more formal notification following the next meeting of Region 7.

4.5 Change of Financial Year

Discussion occurred relating to considering holding the National Conference in the first half of the calendar year to avoid clashes with State-based Local Government Association Annual General Meetings and local government elections in future years.

Changing the MDA's financial year to 1 January – 31 December will enable the national conference and AGM to occur during the first half of the year and avoid the very crowded calendar of the reporting/conference season.

NSW Government Fair Trading, under which the MDA is incorporated requires that an association's committee must ensure that an annual general meeting (AGM) is held within 6 months after the association's financial year-end. An association's constitution must specify its financial year.

Part 6 s17 (3) of the MDA constitution requires that the annual general meeting must be held between 1 July and 30 November in a particular year.

To change the financial year would require a change to the constitution, ergo a motion to the National Conference.

Action: CEO to prepare a briefing paper relating to this matter for discussion at a future board meeting.

4.6 Review of MDA-MDBA Memorandum of Understanding

Following Board Meeting 378, the Memorandum of Understanding between the MDA and Murray-Darling Basin Authority was distributed to all board members for feedback. No feedback received to date.

Action: Board members to provide feedback relating to the MOU via email to the CEO prior to October 3rd.

11.35am Cr Paul Maytom left meeting

4.7 Review of Standing Orders

Action: A sub-committee, consisting of Cr David Thurley, Cr Peter Hunter and Cr David Shetliffe, will review the proposed Standing Orders and provide feedback to the CEO prior to Board Meeting 380 [October 22nd, 2018]

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Finance items

5.1.1 Audit Fees

Costs for audit and accounting fees charged by MGR Accounting in 2018 were \$6,200, marginally higher than original estimates forecast in the finance strategy adopted in 2016/17. This is a reasonable variance due to MDA's transition to Xero, and the requirements to develop new interface systems and templates at MGR to process our data.

Discussions held with MGR have secured a commitment to continue to pursue further efficiency gains, with a quote for 2019/20 audit fees confirmed at \$5,500.00 contingent on MDA maintaining existing high efficiency financial management practices.

It should be noted that costs for audit and accounting fees are down from \$66,130 reported in the 2013/14 financial statements.

Motion: That the Murray Darling Association confirm the appointment of MGR Accounting for the 2019/20 financial year.

D Shetliffe/P Hunter

Carried

5.1.2 Funds held in LGFA

MDA reserve funds of \$45,610.28 held in LGFA are currently earning 1.5% interest.

Motion: That the MDA authorize the Treasurer and CEO to take all necessary actions to redeem the funds in full, transfer to the transaction account and reinvest immediately in a bank term deposit at between 2.4% to 2.6% interest.

P George/P Hunter

Carried

11.45am Cr Denis Clark left meeting

5.1.3 Asset renewal – vehicle

The Nissan XTrail is currently at end of asset life at just over 110,000klm. Quotes have been sought for renewal.

New ATO rules introduced 2019 will create an additional FBT liability MDA on a new vehicle under direct lease. This can be negated by the CEO purchasing the vehicle on a novated lease and MDA paying the CEO a travel allowance sufficient to cover the costs of purchase of the vehicle.

Board members considered that such a course of action should be at the CEO's discretion and recommended that she seek financial advice.

During the discussion the CEO declared that her personal accounting services are provided by Pete George's firm M&S Group, giving rise to the perception of a possible conflict of interest. This information had previously be declared to the board at the time of the appointment of Pete George to the position of tresasurer.

The board noted the declaration, and deemed there to be no conflict.

Motion: That the board:

- a) Authorise the Treasurer and CEO to take all necessary steps to procure the new vehicle on the most favorable terms.
- b) Request a report be tabled for noting when the matter is concluded.

D Shetliffe/J MacAllister

Carried

5.2 Productivity Commission Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment draft report

The Productivity Commission presented its *Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment draft report* at the 74th National Conference.

The MDA will produce a submission relating to the report by October 10.

Regional representation is encouraged at public hearings occurring on the following dates:

- October 12 – Mildura
- October 15 – Murray Bridge
- October 17 – Shepparton
- October 22 – Goondiwindi
- October 25 – Dubbo

Public hearings will also occur at Sydney (October 24) and Canberra (October 26)

There is currently no feedback from the regions for consideration by the board. Subject to workload, the CEO will endeavor to prepare and circulate to draft MDA submission to the board for comment and noting by October 1st.

Action: That the board agree to provide feedback on the draft, and allow it to be noted by flying minute following consideration of the draft by email.

5.3 Water asset security during drought

There has been some advocacy by others on the issue of providing environmental water for farmers experiencing drought-related hardship. This is a regional issue, and the MDA has acknowledged the position of some regional LGAs (ie RAMJO in the Riverina).

It would be helpful to have a position on the matter. Principles articulated by the MDA to date in relation to this issue have included:

- a) Supports consistency, and equity in licensing and status arrangements across Basin jurisdictions.
- b) Supports providing farmers, irrigators and the CEWH with security of their held Water Assets;
- c) does not advocate action which would undermine ownership entitlements or erode confidence in water ownership.
- d) Recognises the impacts of the drought and encourages Basin governments to provide practical support to farmers experiencing hardship.
- e) Encourages regional groups and joint organisations to identify workable solutions to issues and challenges that impact their region.
- f) Supports shared advocacy on issues of common interest.

Action: Matter to be circulated to regions for discussion.

6. MEMBERSHIP APPROVALS

6.1 Membership receipts

- 6.1.1** Geoff Lucas (Individual member)
- 6.1.2** Riverina Water County Council (Non local government organisation)
- 6.1.3** Murray Irrigation (Non local government organisation)

Motion: That the Board accept the members.

D Shetliffe/J Campbell

Carried

6.2 Membership withdrawals

- 6.2.1** The Barossa Council
- 6.2.2** District Council of Mount Remarkable

7. STRATEGY

7.1 Strategic Advisory Sub-committee

The next SAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26th, 2018.

8. CLOSE

Profit & Loss

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED 1 Jul 2018 to 31 Jul 2018

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Income								
Conference Income	65,820	20,000	45,820▲	229.1%▲	65,820	20,000	45,820▲	229.1%▲
Donation/Gift Income	10	5	5▲	100.0%▲	10	5	5▲	100.0%▲
Income - Memberships	215,048	155,000	60,048▲	38.7%▲	215,048	155,000	60,048▲	38.7%▲
Interest Income	(170)	800	(970)▼	-121.3%▼	(170)	800	(970)▼	-121.3%▼
Total Income	280,708	175,805	104,903	59.7%	280,708	175,805	104,903	59.7%
Gross Profit	280,708	175,805	104,903	60.0%	280,708	175,805	104,903	60.0%
Less Operating Expenses								
Accounting/Bookeeping Fees	-	35	(35)▼	-100.0%▼	-	35	(35)▼	-100.0%▼
Bank Fees	146	50	96▲	192.5%▲	146	50	96▲	192.5%▲
Computer Expenses	195	100	95▲	95.5%▲	195	100	95▲	95.5%▲
Depreciation - Computer	71	-	71▲	0.0%	71	-	71▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Low Value Pool	15	-	15▲	0.0%	15	-	15▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	266	-	266▲	0.0%	266	-	266▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Office Equipment	21	-	21▲	0.0%	21	-	21▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Software	394	-	394▲	0.0%	394	-	394▲	0.0%
Engagement and Communications	17	300	(283)▼	-94.3%▼	17	300	(283)▼	-94.3%▼
General Repairs & Maintenance	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼
Licences and Subscriptions	821	100	721▲	720.9%▲	821	100	721▲	720.9%▲
Motor Vehicle Fuel/Oil	203	320	(117)▼	-36.5%▼	203	320	(117)▼	-36.5%▼

Profit & Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Motor Vehicle Interest Expense	39	39	▲	0.2%▲	39	39	▲	0.2%▲
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	45	-	45▲	0.0%	45	-	45▲	0.0%
Parking/Tolls Expenses	198	-	198▲	0.0%	198	-	198▲	0.0%
Postage	-	120	(120)▼	-100.0%▼	-	120	(120)▼	-100.0%▼
Premises Rent - Echuca	1,250	1,000	250▲	25.0%▲	1,250	1,000	250▲	25.0%▲
Printing	-	150	(150)▼	-100.0%▼	-	150	(150)▼	-100.0%▼
Professional Fees	6,200	-	6,200▲	0.0%	6,200	-	6,200▲	0.0%
Staff Amenities	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼
Stationery	82	75	7▲	9.1%▲	82	75	7▲	9.1%▲
Superannuation	1,594	2,368	(774)▼	-32.7%▼	1,594	2,368	(774)▼	-32.7%▼
Telephone Expenses	486	450	36▲	8.0%▲	486	450	36▲	8.0%▲
Travel & Accom. Expenses	-	670	(670)▼	-100.0%▼	-	670	(670)▼	-100.0%▼
Wages & Salaries Expenses	22,965	24,930	(1,965)▼	-7.9%▼	22,965	24,930	(1,965)▼	-7.9%▼
Water Expenses	-	350	(350)▼	-100.0%▼	-	350	(350)▼	-100.0%▼
Work Cover Premiums	327	-	327▲	0.0%	327	-	327▲	0.0%
Total Operating Expenses	35,335	31,157	4,178	13.4%	35,335	31,157	4,178	13.4%
Net Profit	245,373	144,648	100,725	70.0%	245,373	144,648	100,725	70.0%

Profit & Loss

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED 1 Aug 2018 to 31 Aug 2018

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Income								
Conference Income	3,277	55,000	(51,723)▼	-94.0%▼	69,097	75,000	(5,903)▼ ¹	-7.9%▼
Donation/Gift Income	239	5	234▲	4682.8%▲	249	10	239▲	2391.4%▲
Income - Memberships	77	50,000	(49,923)▼	-99.8%▼	215,125	205,000	10,125▲	4.9%▲
Interest Income	1,039	-	1,039▲	0.0%	869	800	69▲	8.6%▲
Total Income	4,632	105,005	(100,373)	-95.6%	285,340	280,810	4,530	1.6%
Gross Profit	4,632	105,005	(100,373)	-96.0%	285,340	280,810	4,530	2.0%
Less Operating Expenses								
Accounting/Bookeeping Fees	-	35	(35)▼	-100.0%▼	-	70	(70)▼	-100.0%▼
Bank Fees	143	50	93▲	186.2%▲	289	100	189▲	189.3%▲
Business Insurance	-	408	(408)▼	-100.0%▼	-	408	(408)▼	-100.0%▼
Computer Expenses	25	100	(75)▼	-75.5%▼	220	200	20▲	10.0%▲
Conference Expenses	5,789	-	5,789▲	0.0%	5,789	-	5,789▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Computer	71	-	71▲	0.0%	143	-	143▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Low Value Pool	15	-	15▲	0.0%	30	-	30▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	266	-	266▲	0.0%	531	-	531▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Office Equipment	21	-	21▲	0.0%	42	-	42▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Software	394	-	394▲	0.0%	788	-	788▲	0.0%
Engagement and Communications	3,500	300	3,200▲	1066.7%▲	3,517	600	2,917▲	486.2%▲
General Repairs & Maintenance	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	-	100	(100)▼	-100.0%▼

Profit & Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Licences and Subscriptions	191	100	91▲	90.6%▲	1,011	200	811▲	405.7%▲
Motor Vehicle Fuel/Oil	330	320	10▲	3.2%▲	533	640	(107)▼	-16.7%▼
Motor Vehicle Interest Expense	39	39	-▲	0.2%▲	78	78	-▲	0.2%▲
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	-	-	-	0.0%	45	-	45▲	0.0%
Parking/Tolls Expenses	19	-	19▲	0.0%	217	-	217▲	0.0%
Postage	69	120	(51)▼	-42.5%▼	69	240	(171)▼	-71.3%▼
Premises Rent - Echuca	1,250	1,000	250▲	25.0%▲	2,500	2,000	500▲	25.0%▲
Printing	-	150	(150)▼	-100.0%▼	-	300	(300)▼	-100.0%▼
Professional Fees	-	-	-	0.0%	6,200	-	6,200▲	0.0%
Staff Amenities	23	50	(27)▼	-54.5%▼	23	100	(77)▼	-77.3%▼
Staff Training Expenses	99	-	99▲	0.0%	99	-	99▲	0.0%
Stationery	61	75	(14)▼	-19.2%▼	142	150	(8)▼	-5.0%▼
Superannuation	1,471	1,579	(108)▼	-6.9%▼	3,064	3,947	(883)▼	-22.4%▼
Telephone Expenses	526	450	76▲	16.9%▲	1,012	900	112▲	12.5%▲
Travel & Accom. Expenses	264	670	(406)▼	-60.5%▼	264	1,340	(1,076)▼	-80.3%▼
Wages & Salaries Expenses	25,358	16,620	8,738▲	52.6%▲	48,322	41,550	6,772▲	16.3%▲
Water Expenses	-	250	(250)▼	-100.0%▼	-	600	(600)▼	-100.0%▼
Work Cover Premiums	-	-	-	0.0%	327	-	327▲	0.0%
Total Operating Expenses	39,923	22,366	17,557	78.5%	75,258	53,523	21,735	40.6%
Net Profit	(35,291)	82,639	(117,930)	-143.0%	210,082	227,287	(17,205)	-8.0%

Notes

1

An additional \$26000 in conference income has been received in September, bringing the total conference income for 2019 to \$95,000. September P&L will show a favorable variation to budget.