



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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P.O. Box 359
Albury, NSW 2640

Ordinary Meeting of the Board #366
10.30am AEST Thursday 6th July 2017
Location: Desktop – GoTo Meeting

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING No. 366

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley (Chair)	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Cr Daria Turley	Broken Hill City Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Shire Council	Region 6
Cr David Shetliffe	Walkerville Town Council	Region 7
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Assoc	CEO
Bobby Brook*	Moira Shire Council	Secretariat R2
Annette Waters*	Murray Darling Assoc	Administration Trainee

* Non-board member – attendance by invitation

1.2 Apologies

Cr Leigh Byron	Balranald Shire Council	Region 3
Pete George	M&S Group Accounting	Treasurer

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 365 held Friday 2nd June 2017, AICD Melbourne be accepted as an accurate record.

D Shetliffe/P Maytom Carried

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 MDA Business identification - update

Board members are keen to avoid conflict or diminution of relationship with other stakeholders through the use of the acronym LGA.

Barry Featherston expressed a view that after such a significant change as the new constitution and other recent reforms, name change may be too much.

Darriea Turley noted that there are many local government associations across Australia with LGA in name, in various forms (ie. ALGWA and LGMA etc.)

David Thurley suggested that board members should continue discussion and turn minds to what, if any changes to name to better reflect MDAs connection with Local Government, may be appropriate.

D Shetliffe/P Maytom

Carried

3.2 6.1 – Position Scope for noting

An email was sent to the Board providing information in regard to the MDA Senior Officers position description.

Motion: That the board note the position description for the MDA Senior Officer.

D Turley/P Maytom

Carried

4. REPORTS

4.1 Region Reports

Region 1 – attached

Region 5 – attached

Region 7 – attached

Region 9 – Cr Paul Maytom reported on Region 9s progress and the EWAGs positive and beneficial meeting.

Region 12 – Cr Richard Marsh reported on having some difficulty with their inaugural meeting, which is now set for 1st Aug.

Motion: That the region reports be accepted.

D Shetliffe/P Maytom

Carried

4.2 Chief Executive Officer report

Report taken as read.

Emma spoke to the recurrent theme of needing local governments to be involved in the decision-making process in the continuing implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, discussed in Canberra. Also pressed the importance of local government meeting challenges and opportunities in planning across the basin in year ahead.

General discussion agreeing that the MDA will exhibit at next year's ALGA Meeting (to be held in Sydney) and combined with a face-to-face board meeting.

Cr Peter Mansfield noted the boards commendation on arranging an excellent array of high caliber engagements in Canberra.

Motion: That the CEO's report be accepted.

P Maytom/D Shetliffe

Carried

4.3 Finance and Treasurer report

Taken as read

Motion: That the Finance reports be accepted.

P Hunter/D Shetliffe

Carried

5. General Business

5.1 Motion to amend the constitution

That the CEO is to liaise with Russell Kennedy lawyers to draft a constitutional amendment to address the risk to the MDA of sitting councilors of non member councils being allowed to join as individual members.

Motion: That the Board authorise the CEO to liaise with Russell Kennedy lawyers to draft a constitutional amendment as follows;

- a) Part 3, item 6 – remove the words *of a member council* or similar; and
- b) Part 11, item 38 – add the following subclauses
 - a. The amendment must be lodged with the executive six weeks prior to the MDA Meeting
 - b. The amendment must be listed as a motion and published in the agenda for the MDA Meeting.

B Featherston/P Maytom

Carried

5.2 Approval of membership

The Board may reject any applications of membership at its absolute discretion under Part 10 s21(2) of the constitution.

Motion: That the Board will reject any applications of membership from a serving councilor

D Shetliffe/ D Clark

Carried

5.3 Membership, engagement, and regional development strategy

General discussion regarding chairs to make better use of the professional skill sets that exist within their council to strengthen regional engagement, and provide greater consistency of progress across the regions.

5.4 Adopted positions of the Murray Darling Association

General discussion regarding the MDAs position on Regional issues which include the challenges for local government, 450GL of upwater, and enabling regions to form a position on these sorts of issues. It's also important that Regions set positions through decisions, resolutions and effective minute taking.

5.5 'Membes' membership and stakeholder management software

General discussion around current inefficiencies in the MDAs current membership database managements systems and communication. Assigned a high priority to finding a more efficient system that can assist the organization to communicate and to grow memberships. Noted that Pete George and Emma has attended a digital presentation by 'Membes' software previous day.

Action: Emma to investigate

6. NEXT MEETING

6.1 4th August 10.30am AEST – (digital)

7. CLOSE 11.50 am

Region 1 report

Meeting held on May 26th. Guest speaker was Tom Chesson talking on the carp eradication programme and Di Meade called in from the MDBA to make a presentation regarding the progress of the Basin plan evaluation.

Albury City has contributed two papers focussing on regional issues: constraints management and the issues of water quality and security. These will form part of the strategic issues paper for Region 1. Other region 1 councils are encouraged to consider the issues that apply to them and develop short papers.

Some members asked that Snowy Hydro address the August meeting but this will be deferred until the November because Snowy Hydro will present at the National Conference in Renmark in October.

I have had a number of meetings as National President with various stakeholders and have participated in several media opportunities following the release of the Wentworth Group's report. I have had interviews on ABC Goulburn, ABC News 24, Radio National's AM, and ALbury 2AY. There was also an opinion piece in the Border Mail.

Next meeting is the AGM to be held on 24th August in the Robert Brown room at Albury City building in Kiewa Street.

Cr David Thurley

Councillor AlburyCity



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 5

Chairperson:
Peter Hunter

Ph: 0447 177 341

www.mda.asn.au ABN: 64 636 490 493

Hosting Council:
Renmark Paringa Council

Ph: 08 8580 3000

Region 5 Monthly Report to the Board

Monday, July 3, 2017

Region 5 has not had a meeting since the MDA Board met in Melbourne & we are due for our next meeting on the 10th July – at which we will need to realign our meeting dates with the decision of the board to hold meetings on the first Thursday of the month.

In the background, we have been working on the MDA AGM program and have had three meetings with the MDA CEO by phone link. The study tour in particular, is looking at being a very worthwhile series of experiences, very well matched to our theme & some (a visit to the 1968 State Proposal to build a dam on the Chowilla Dam Site) will bring back memories for some of one of the many 'political' disputes / decisions which shaped our water policy over many years. We plan to offer individual 5 experiences in this valuable day of activities – please encourage others to book a seat for the study tour, on Friday the 13th, yes Friday the 13thof October.

We have also put together a series of options for the partners & they will need to book early to get a seat on the Flavour Safari – a day of wonderful sights & tastes. Many experiences will be advertised / available via the website, while others will be available through visits to the local townships & Visitor Information Centres.

We also hope the booking of venues & options to support Emma & her team have been of use, as they 'work the details' to get the program to be a valuable, worthwhile series of experiences for all to enjoy.

In booking accommodation, we would recommend booking early as the chosen dates are within the SA school holidays. Most activities are based in Renmark.

Our next meeting is hosting information from the MDB / Local LAP Groups in rotation (as we move about the area for our meetings) & our State Department for Environment, Water & Natural Resources. At the following meeting we have the local CEWH presenting.

Peter Hunter
Chairperson
Region 5

MDA Board Meeting 6 July 2017

Region 7 Report

A regional meeting was held on 29 June at Mitcham Council. The CEO attended via computer link. 20 people attended.

Two presentations were given. The first, by Mitcham council, outlined work they are successfully trialling for pervious paving on footpaths and roads together with other measures to improve water efficiency in parks and gardens. The second was an MDBA update by Di Mead, also using computer link. Both were well received by those present generating much discussion and questions.

It was decided that, for the most part, future meetings will held in the evening. I am now putting together a schedule of meetings for the next 12 months.

I have now developed a value proposition document for why Adelaide metro councils should be members of MDA. The CEO had input into this. I will be using it as I approach councils in Adelaide who are not members.

I have started work on the region's regional plan framework and will be linking this to our endeavour to document the water saving measures undertaken by local and State governments to reduce demand on River Murray water. I am looking at applying for a research grant through the SA LGA to assist with this work.

I am also meeting with the LGA to encourage the holding of a cross regional SA forum prior to the MDA AGM.

Our August meeting will include consideration of any motions for the AGM from Region 7.

We continue to work with councils to determine whether they are included in the correct region. For example, it appears Mt Barker is better aligned with Region 6, however, Adelaide Hills perhaps better belongs in Region 7.

I have also spent a lot of time with the CEO trying to get our records aligned between our local records and those held by the MDA office.

David Shetliffe
Chair, Region 7



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Board Meeting No. 366

Finance Report – June 2017

Objective

To inform the Board of the financial affairs of the Association.

Financial Report

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Given the early timing of this month's board meeting, and the fact that preparing true and fair financial reports takes a little time, this short update is provided to inform the Board about our financial position.

At this stage, nothing has emerged to indicate that we have not met our budget expectations for 2016-17. We therefore expect that our underlying free cash position will have improved during the year.

One key cashflow benchmark achieved is that we will not need to access our term deposit funds, because our working cheque account has a relatively healthy balance. Following our process of emailing membership invoices in early June (those invoices were dated 1 July, as normal), we received some \$55,000 of member payments prior to 30 June.

In addition, we made the last accrued rental payment to Parks Victoria, meaning that all the old liabilities that MDA had accumulated during the past two and more years have now been fully cleared. Other than accrued expenses for June, and a couple of small Flood DVD debtors, the Board will have a clean Balance Sheet at the commencement of the new financial year.

We expect to have complete pre-audit financial statements completed before 30 July, and will circulate these together with an explanatory note to put them in context.

Regards

Peter Gray
Finance Manager

Prepared by Peter Gray

Approved by Emma Bradbury



Chief Executive Officer's Board Report May - June 2017

Prepared by: Emma Bradbury

Chief Executive Officer
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463 High Street
Echuca Vic 3564

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1. Diary/Engagements

01/05/17	Meeting Perin Davey - PD Strategy	Echuca
04/05/17	Meeting Hon Bob Katter MP, Member of Kennedy and Tony Moony	Townsville
05/05/17	Annual Leave	Leave
15/05/17	Region 3 Meeting	Gannawarra
16/05/17	Towong Shire Council Presentation	Tallangatta
17/05/17	Meeting Hon Peter Walsh	Echuca
19/05/17	Website Training	Skype
22/05/17	Region 2 Meeting	Echuca
25/05/17	Region 9 Meeting	Leeton
26/05/17	Region 1 Meeting	Skype
31/05/17	GMW - Water Industry Catch-Up	Echuca
31/05/17	Meeting w/ Pete George M&S Accounting	Echuca
01/06/17	Berri Hotel Group – National Conference	Skype
02/06/17	Board Meeting 365	Melbourne
09/06/17	104.5 EMFM Radio – monthly program	Echuca
13/06/17	Loddon Shire Council Presentation	Loddon
13/06/17	Strathbogie Shire Council Presentation	Strathbogie
16/06/17	Finance Meeting – Budget and Strategy 2017/18	Echuca
18/06/17	Region 4 Meeting	Canberra
19/06/17	19-22 June Canberra meetings with Cr Thurley – see report attached	Canberra
28/05/17	National Conference – Planning Meeting RPC	Skype
29/06/2017	Radio National AM – interview with Sabra Lane	Barmah
29/06/17	Region 7 Meeting, Adelaide	Skype
30/06/17	EOFY!	

2. General

Applications have closed for the Senior Officer position. Some very good applications received. 5 applicants shortlisted. All shortlisted applicants were provided invited as part of the selection process, to provide a set piece in advance of an interview. They were asked to write a letter of no more than 350 words using information from the Canberra meetings summary and their existing knowledge of the MDA, that could be sent to a non-member council. The letter should a) highlight the benefits, opportunities, and importance to their community of an active role in Basin issues and b) invite the council to join the MDA. Interviews will be conducted 10-14/07/2017.

Several media releases during the week and renewed debate following the release of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists

Canberra engagements 19 – 22 June 2017

Following the successful call from the MDA earlier in the year for flows in the Murray River to be maintained at adequate heights to meet visitor expectation during the peak visitation period of Easter 2017, the National President Cr David Thurley and the Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury travelled to Canberra for scheduled follow up meetings with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, and the Murray Darling Basin Authority River Operations to discuss strategies to achieve similar outcomes in future years.

This provided the opportunity for the MDA to undertake a round of engagements with other Basin related stakeholders on behalf of our members and local government across the Basin, as follows:

These were excellent meetings, demonstrating a high regard for the contribution of local government collectively, and in the interests of our member councils individually.

Monday 19th June 2017

Emma Bradbury – Chief Executive Office met with and discussed the following

1. Colin Mues – MDBA Chief Economist

Murray Darling Basin Authority – 33 Allara St.

- Discussed continuing overlap of engagement strategy and further opportunities.

2. Phil Townsend – MDBA Social Analyst

Murray Darling Basin Authority – 33 Allara St.

- social and community engagement process and practices of the MDBA.
- Pending visit to Gannawarra Shire – recommended also engage with Loddon.
- Opportunities for closer collaboration.
- Value of the MDA Region profiles.

3. Region 4 - Member Councils

ALGA, National Conference Centre

- Informal engagement with and briefing of Region 4 member councils in advance of Broken Hill Regional Council's inaugural ordinary meeting.
- Joined also by Mayor Dave Burgess, Region 5 Riverland.

4. Senator Jane Hume – Senator for Victoria

Parliament House

- Role and model of the MDA
- Briefing on issues across the Basin, particularly as related to Victoria

Tuesday 20th June 2017

Cr David Thurley – National President and

Emma Bradbury – Chief Executive Office met with and discussed the following

5. David Papps – Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

Andrew Reynolds – MDBA General Manager, Assets

Joe Davies – MDBA Senior Director of River Operations

MDBA River Ops – 40 Allara Street

- River management and its effects on tourism dependent communities.
- Note of thanks to all parties for their work in coordinating flows to maintain river heights Easter 17.
- Regulatory constraints on both the CEWO and the MDBA in delivery of the resource.
- Not possible to commit to automatic assurance of flows adequate to meet visitor expectation, but committed to maximise opportunities where possible, within the provisions of the legislation.
- Opportunity for continuing collaboration to maximise multiple benefits of flows, timing and available resources.
- Strategies for enhanced communications and information sharing.
- Andrew Reynolds appointment to role of Executive Director, River Operations following David Dreverman's retirement in September.
- National Conference 2017.
- Joe proposed a teleconference to share information in advance of next Easter.

6. Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg, President LGA SA

ALGA – National Convention Centre

- Informal discussion re proposed naming convention for the MDA to reflect LGA.
- Not opposed to a change, but not supportive of the use of 'LGA', as it has specific connotations in SA.

7. McArthur Group

ALGA – National Convention Centre

- John and Annie McArthur – long-time supporters and sponsors of the MDA
- Nick Kelley and Matthew Mullins, recruitment
- Informal discussion regarding National Conference

8. Philip Glyde Chief Executive Officer Murray Darling Basin Authority
Di Meade Evaluation Coordinator Murray Darling Basin Authority
Murray Darling Basin Authority – 33 Allara St.

- Strengthening of MOU – engagement strategy.
- MDA Regional profiles – discussed the value the MDBA of the information these will yield and considered the possibility of resourcing opportunities.
- Request local government representation, via the Murray Darling LGS on Basin Official Committee in an advisory capacity
 - Provision for this to occur may exist under Water Act 2007 Schedule 1, Part III(10)- Ministerial Council May Direct Committee
- Local government a responsible authority serving the needs and interests of our communities. The third level of government in Australia –not an ‘interest group’.
- Local governments role in forming the decisions and policies at the front end for more effective planning and implementation – Basin Plan and beyond.
- In 2014, Craig Knowles said that if the MDA didn’t exist, MDBA would need to invent it. Opportunity for MDBA to make greater use of the MDA to meet community consultation obligations and objectives, and to serve our shared purpose.
- MDA meeting schedules provide a framework and an opportunity for structured engagement of communities in the ongoing engagement between MDBA, utilising local government effectively.
- Resourcing to continue to deliver strong benefit and an effective contribution to local government, communities and state and federal counterparts.
- MDA 73rd Annual National Conference, Renmark 2017. Snowy 2.0; and *The role of the barrages in achieving Basin Plan objectives*. Andrey Reynolds and Joe Davis or an SA Op to represent MDBA on panel0
- Views on *A review of socio-economic neutrality in the context of Murray-Darling Basin Plan implementation: A Final Report* prepared for the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries – Water March 2017, and other recent releases.

9. The Hon Barnaby Joyce - Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Ag and Water Resources
Bruce Male – Senior Advisor, Water Prime Minister’s Office
Matthew Coulton – Senior Advisor, Deputy Prime Ministers Office
Parliament House

- Thank the DPM for the opportunity provided by the community forum to address the Ministers at the Ministerial Council in March.
- Case for local government representation at Ministerial level to facilitate more informed decisions and local solutions.
- Local government a responsible authority serving the needs and interests of our communities. The third level of government in Australia –not an ‘interest group’.

- Invitation to make greater use of the local government and community network offered by the MDA.
- MDA Regional profiles – discussed the value the Cth, and the states of the information these will yield to facilitate more informed decision making to benefit our local communities.
- Discussed the need for resourcing opportunities in addition to membership fees.

Wednesday 21st June 2017

Cr David Thurley – National President and

Emma Bradbury – Chief Executive Office met with and discussed the following

**10. Senator Nick Xenophon, Leader NXT, Senator for South Australia
Michael Cornish, Snr Advisor to Rebekha Sharkie, Member for Mayo
Rex Patrick, Advisor for Nick Xenophon
Parliament House**

- Introduction
- Role and model of the MDA
- Briefing on issues across the Basin
- MDA Regional profiles – discussed the value the SA and Cth of the information these will yield to facilitate more informed decision making to benefit our communities.
- Local government a responsible authority serving the needs and interests of our communities. The third level of government in Australia –not an ‘interest group’.

11. Brian Tucker, Senior Advisor to Senator Burston

Pauline Hanson’s One Nation

Parliament House

- Role and model of the MDA
- Briefing on issues across the Basin
- Arranged to provide some contacts for further briefing
- Importance of a balanced and informed approach to ensure not advocating for one interest group and the expense of others across the community and environment.

12. Cr David O’Laughlin

President

Adrian Beresford-Wylie

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Local Government Association – National Convention Centre

- Introduction of the MDA
- Invitation to collaborate on areas of common interest
- Sharing of media releases
- Role of the ALGA as a federation of the state LGAs
- MDA Regional profiles – discussed the value of the information these will to facilitate more informed decision making to benefit our communities.

13. Tony Burke MP – Member for Watson

Sean Halse – Snr Advisor, Water

Parliament House

- Introduction
- Role and model of the MDA
- Briefing on issues across the Basin
- Local government a responsible authority serving the needs and interests of our communities. The third level of government in Australia –not an ‘interest group’.

14. The Hon Bill Shorten MP – Leader of the Opposition*

Andrew Thomas, Chief of Staff

Parliament House

- Introduction
 - Role and model of the MDA
 - Briefing on issues across the Basin
 - Labor inviting councils to their top three local infrastructure projects that:
 - create jobs and boost productivity
 - ease congestion and help local businesses
 - improve local amenity and sense of community.
- Councils can send their best ideas to localideas@australianlabor.com.au.
- Local government a responsible authority serving the needs and interests of our communities. The third level of government in Australia –not an ‘interest group’.

*Emma met informally with Mr Shorten earlier. Mr Shorten was not in the meeting at Parliament House.

15. The Hon Sussan Ley MP – Member for Farrer

Steve Block – Advisor

Parliament House

- Briefing on issues across the Basin
- Electorate of Farrer takes in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9, and parts of 10.

Thursday 22nd June 2017

Cr David Thurley – National President and

Emma Bradbury – Chief Executive Office met with and discussed the following

16. Paul Morris – Deputy Secretary

Tim Fisher - Assistant Secretary

Matthew Kemp – Officer

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

- Progress of implementation and water recovery.
- National Conference - themes, topics and sponsorship
- MDA Regional profiles – discussed the value the Cth, and the states of the information these will yield to facilitate more informed decision making to benefit our local communities.
- Template for Regional Plans
- Advice that media may currently be working on a Basin related story. MDA Regions may wish to prepare and consider their input.

- Local government a responsible authority serving the needs and interests of our communities. The third level of government in Australia –not an ‘interest group’.
- Need for greater resourcing to deliver on expectation.

[end]

3. Regions

Need for regional development and membership strategy.

Also need to discuss consistency of governance arrangements and work practices across secretariats.

4. Conference

Progressing

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer