



**Draft -Minutes - Public Meeting 138**  
**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Thursday 22 June 2017 – Mount Barker NRO – 11:45pm**

**1. Meeting Procedure**

**220617-138-1.1 Attendance Present:**

Chair: Sharon Starick

Members: Rod Ralph, Deana Mildren, Kim Blenkiron, Peter Duggin, Owen Love, Tim Smyth, Andrew Kassebaum and Garry Fyfe

Ex Officio: Anthony Fox (Acting RD), Denise Fowles, Melanie Rowe, Claire Stephenson, Sonia Dominelli, Louisa Halliday, Sandy Gunter and Renee Clark (minutes)

**Apologies:** Gioia Small, Dan Jordan, Ben Fee and Mike Williams

**Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Opening**

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians. The Board wishes to sincerely thank Nick Bakkum who has retired from the Board. The Board appreciate Nick's commitment and input and his significant contribution as the Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee. The Board also wishes to thank Monique White for her role as the Chair of the Ranges to River Group and her contribution to the Group and region.

**220617-138-1.3 Declaration of Interest**

Nil

**220617-138-1.4 Consent Schedule**

Item	Topic	Motion
1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 137 held on 26 May 2017	The Board <b>approves</b> the Minutes of Meeting 137 held on 26 May 2017 Board notes the attachments (presentations)
2	Presiding Members Report	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.
3	Regional Directors Report	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.
4	Development Planning Summary	The Board <b>approves</b> the Planning Summary for May.

**To approve and note all items on the consent schedule**  
**Resolved**

The below items have been removed from the consent schedule and onto the agenda for discussion and noting.

5	NLP Performance Audit	To note the outcomes of the NLP Performance Audit and action plan to address non-compliance / observations from the audit.
6	Program Review	Note the Program Review, its intended outcomes and structure, approve the schedule of workshops and workshop attendees and provide direction on the requirement for complimentary field visits

## **220617-138-1.5 NLP Performance Audit**

Marijana Levak, principal policy officer provided a paper to the Board, with the outcomes of the recent NLP Performance Audit.

### **Discussion**

- In summary the audit found that 7 out of 10 areas were compliant.
- The auditors have provided recommendations and improvements for the three non-compliant areas.
- One of the issues was around volunteer and indigenous engagement where there was no regional specific documentation even though there is a commitment and demonstrated collaboration.
- Each project plan has a section that talks about indigenous engagement and community engagement as a whole but this was not enough for the audit team and a document is being developed to tie this all together.
- The next self-audit is due on the 5 July 2017. The team are committed to the recommendations in the audit documentation and are working on rectifying them.
- Another issue was the reporting back to the Commonwealth of high level work health and safety incidents, these incidents are unlikely but there needs to be a mechanism for reporting back.
- The final was all communications products including media releases, flyers etc. need to be sent through the Commonwealth's Departments for approvals and that more media releases need to be prepared. In the past there was a verbal agreement but this is not satisfactory and needs to have a written agreement in place so timeframes can be met. If the current agreement says all communication need to be vetted by the Commonwealth, this is what should be happening regardless of timeframes.
- Interest accrued - The Manager Business Services is working with DEWNR Corporate and has been identified prior to the audit.

**Action: Manager Community Engagement to update current communication documentation to include recommendations from the audit ready for NLP 2.**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the outcomes of the NLP Performance Audit and action plan to address non-compliance / observations from the audit.**

**Resolved**

## **220617-138-1.6 2017 Program Review**

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided a paper to the Board to outline the Program Review concept and secure Board approval for the recommended approach and schedule.

### **Discussion:**

- The Board felt that the workshop proposal was beneficial but that field visits were not required due to the time it takes to conduct them.
- The first workshop at the July Board meeting will be a presentation from the Community Engagement team.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**Note the Program Review, its intended outcomes and structure and approve the schedule of workshops and Team Leaders and Group Chairs**

**Resolved**

## **220617-138-1.5 Action Sheet**

Board received and noted the Action Sheet to May 2017 meeting.

**Action: Follow up with Water Licencing to ascertain if the water licence holders that are under \$200 have received a bill or not and ensure they are still on hold.**

**Action: Determine if water license holder that presented to the Board is making payments towards his debt.**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the Action Sheet for information.  
Resolved**

## **2. Board Matters**

### **220617-138-2.1 Pecuniary Interest Forms**

Members completed their Pecuniary Interest Forms for 2017-2018.

### **220617-138-2.2 Flows for the Future - Update**

Brett Ibbotson and Slavica Miskovich, Project Officers for the Flows for the Future team provided a verbal update to the Board. Copies of the communication plan and frequently asked questions were distributed for the Board to use if questioned by the community.

#### **Discussion**

- Meetings have been held with industry groups, LAPS etc. and market research has also been conducted. Some of the Groups have wanted to partner in the program and have provided feedback on the information provided.
- Each individual dam has an information sheet with model data.
- An opportunity has been missed to invite local leaders into the presentation today. Prior to the launch the team have been getting out to groups and individuals to educate.
- ALMR have started a pilot- it is smaller and there have been mixed reactions and varied conversations.
- The Board questioned if people do not want to participate can other dams be selected. The dams that are targeted have the best return flows and achieve the best outcomes. The project want to encourage people to be involved and be positive about the project.
- The Board suggested that the wider community can be the watch dog of the success of the project. There will be a social push and using examples of devices that are already in place and their success.
- It was suggested that the Fleurieu Beef Group require a visit from the team.
- The Board questioned if the low flow device links to the landholders title. There are two legal instruments – for licensed dams the low flow device is registered on the landholders water licence. For unlicensed dams (stock and domestic dams) there is a regulation in place that makes it possible to issue a notice to the landholder to formalise the arrangements for the low flow device on their property, providing a similar function to the condition on the water licence.
- A media release is currently being developed, some of the language is being simplified.

### **220617-138-2.3 ELMA Review and WAP Update**

Lissa Arcoverde, Principal Policy Officer, provided a paper to the Board to outline the scope and approach for a review of Environmental Land Management Allocations (ELMA) under the River Murray Water Allocation Plan (WAP). In addition, to formally approve the appointment of Jo Podoliak and Don Ruggiero to an RMAC sub-group which has been established to assist with the review.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the scope and approach for a review of Environmental Land Management Allocations (ELMA) under the River Murray Water Allocation Plan (WAP).  
To approve the appointment of Jo Podoliak and Don Ruggiero to an RMAC sub-group which has been established to assist with the review.  
Resolved**

Lyz Risby, Water Resource Manager provided a paper to the Board updating the Water Allocation Plan (WAP) and a verbal update on the ELMA review.

#### **Discussion**

- Previously there was an impact on bird life that resided, the Board questioned if it will be a part of the checking as it was topical at the time.
- Ground water salinity samples - can the Board get trending data from those contributing landholders? Landholders can obtain it from water connect at a later date we can send out information on how to review.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the WAP and WRP update, Water Resource Plan (WRP) governance schedule (Attachment 1) and Water Resource Plan (WRP) overarching timeline (Attachment 2).**  
**Resolved**

**220617-138-2.4 Water Level Variability**

Jaimi Smith provided the Board with a presentation on Water Level Variability.

**Discussion**

- The Board suggested to include below lock 1 towns in the animation.
- The Weir Pool manipulation team will be attending the Riverland filed days to talk one on one with the community.

**Action: Animation explaining water level variability to be circulated to Board members**

**220617-138-2.5 Draft Strategy & action plan for Better Water Planning & Management**

Ingrid Franssen, Manager State/National Water Policy's team provided a paper to the Board for feedback to be provided regarding the Strategy and Action Plan for Better Water Planning and Management.

**Discussion:**

- The Board appreciates the opportunity to provide early feedback.
- Guiding principles - one is missing, working with people/together there should be a specific principal about the community so it is obvious.
- At the Steering Committee there was discussion around partnerships.
- There is no mention of the Boards as partners it needs to be clear how the Boards are woven into the document. The intent is that the Boards were part owner of the document
- Opportunities for action - there are a number listed, one that is relevant at the moment is working with aboriginal people and cultural water.
- The aboriginal community want the water to go into wetlands it's their traditional hunting grounds that have gone and the access to their traditional foods is what they want. The natural food source could be reintroduced now before the Carp virus is released. The Cultural water is the natural breeding grounds of the birds and fish.
- Further clarification is required to make it clearer so there is no chance for incorrectly interpreting, suggest removing the wording "accessing the water market".
- Does the region see any opportunities for action?
- Under strategy 2 (pg81) potential that the Department could make things happen quicker for example with the WAP. There is always room for improvement in internal process.
- At a recent meeting regarding Aboriginal groups/people entering the water market - they were not considered for retrospective entitlements for their own use previously and they cannot afford to go along and buy water today when they were not given the opportunity to be consulted.
- Next Steps: The Board will consult with the water planning steering committee on any additional actions

**The Board endorse the recommendation:**

**To note the feedback provided to State and National Water Policy Unit on the Draft strategy and action plan and to note that potential projects that the SAMDB NRM region can progress are to be identified in consultation with SAMDB's Water Planning Steering Committee.**  
**Resolved**

**220617-138-2.6 NRM Groups (Working Group)**

Claire Stephenson, Manager Community Engagement provided a paper to the Board to provide a status update on the establishment of a small working group (Reviewing our Connection with the Community).

**Discussion:**

- The group is to have a 6 month tenure with the Group to come back to the Board with its recommendations at the December Board planning day/Board meeting.
- The Board appointed the Chair – Deana Mildren, and Members - Kim Blenkiron, Melissa Rebbeck, Roger Wickes, Claire Stephenson and Sarah Lance to the Group.
- The group will develop the terms of reference at their first meeting.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To acknowledge the nominations to the working group focussing on Reviewing our Connection with the Community and recommended for membership Chair – Deana Mildren, and Members - Kim Blenkiron, Melissa Rebbeck, Roger Wickes, Claire Stephenson and Sarah Lance.**

**The committee has a sunset clause of the December Board Meeting.**

**Resolved**

**220617-138-2.7 Instruments of Appointment**

Peter Michelmore provided a late paper to the Board to request approval of the existing District Officers, Sophie Ellen Harrison, Denni Joy Russell and James Andrew Tomlinson into Regional Authorised Officers after their training was successfully completed.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**That existing District Officers Sophie Ellen Harrison, Denni Joy Russell and James Andrew Tomlinson, who have successfully completed the NRM Authorised officer training and are deemed competent, to be appointed as Regional Authorised Officers.**

**To affix the Boards common seal to the instrument of appointment forms attached in line with Board policy and the instrument of authorisation.**

**Resolved**

**220617-138-2.8 Murray Darling Basin Plan**

Dan Jordan provided a late paper to update the Board on Basin Plan outcomes from the recent COAG and Ministerial Council meetings.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the update on Basin Plan outcomes from the recent COAG and Ministerial Council meetings.**

**Resolved**

**3. Finance and Risk**

**220617-138-3.1 Finance and Risk Committee Report**

Board members were provided with the following to note and approve:

- Financial Reports and Statements to the 31 May 2017
- Minutes of the Financial Governance Committee meeting held in June

**Discussion**

- On farm irrigation efficiency projects - work has been done to reconcile the projects. The Business Services Manager will be going back to the Commonwealth to find out if it is possible to access interest earned.
- A considerable amount of progress has been made on last year's audit findings and there is still more to come. RMT are working on a compliance program.
- The Finance and Risk committee reviewed the draft risk register.

- 3 year SLA the attachments need to be updated and signed off in June. An out of session email will be sent for the Board or if the Board are happy for the Presiding Member and the Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee to review the SLA attachments and for Sharon to approve on behalf of the Board as long as consistent with the AOP that was ratified at the May meeting.
- The corporate fee will remain the same as this financial year. The NLP waiver will continue next year.
- Governance Document – composition of the Board add in DEWRN (Dan Jordan). Governance Document feedback to go to Executive Officer by 30 June 2017.
- To build the cash balance, savings will need to be made.
- The Board are concerned around the control over the retained earnings and the ability to access them when needed.
- It's predicted that we need \$4m at 30 June to get through the first quarter. If the mechanism is formally approved the Boards will receive notification on how to apply.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the finance reports to 31 May 2017.**

**That Sharon Starick and Deana Mildren review the SLA schedules and approve out of session if in line with the AOP 2017/2018 that was ratified at the May Board meeting. If there are any significant changes it will be distributed to the Board prior to signoff.**

**Resolved**

#### **220617-138-3.2 Risk Appetite**

Melanie Rowe, Manager Business Services provided a copy of the draft Risk Register.

#### **Discussion:**

- The Finance and Risk Committee will further look into the Risk Register before it comes back to the Board for discussion.
- Opening up the likelihoods narrows down the level of risk. DEWRN categories have been adopted.
- Garry Fyfe discussed the SA Water risk register and will find out if he can share.

**Action: Finance and Risk committee investigate treatments, potentially using SA Water Risk Register if able to be shared and for the Finance and Risk Committee to bring it back to the Board.**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**Note the Draft Risk Register**

**Resolved**

#### **220617-138-3.3 Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee**

The Presiding Member would like to nominate Deana Mildren as the Chair of the Finance and Risk committee.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**For Deana Mildren to Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee.**

**Resolved**

### **4. Correspondence and Information Items**

#### **220617-138-4.1 Correspondence**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the correspondence received**

**Resolved**

### **5. Board Committees and NRM Groups**

## **220617-138-5.1 Board Committees - Reports and Minutes from Meetings**

Nil received

## **220617-138-5.2 Members Reports**

Deana

- Attended along with the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament a low flow trial site. Lyz will be providing feedback from the committee.
- At the Ranges to River Local Government Meeting on Wednesday 21 June there was a carp virus presentation. The members of Ranges to River group suggested a co-chairing arrangement due to the current members being able to commit full time.
- Comments made around the time commitment to assess applications for Connecting Community Grants. It was questioned if GARP could receive sitting fees for reading applications. There is a risk that Group representatives will not put their hands up in future considering the workload.

Rod

- At the Mallee Coorong group meeting they discussed the new property owner's information booklet. The group would like a local specific booklet but the Department want it to be wider ranging. The Board questioned how it would be distributed to the community. The group need to clarify who will be creating the document. The Board questioned if there is a need and how this has been determined? A landholder brochure is not strategic and the Community Engagement team cannot fit this into their budget.
- The Group feel that they are "volunteers" and not paid to promote NRM. The Board need to be clear about the expectations of the Groups. The roles and responsibilities for the groups has been completed and will be circulated to Group members.

Andrew

- The Berri Barmera council are piloting a weed strategy and mapping the region.

## **6. Presentations/Overview of Meeting**

### **220617-138-6.1 Board Presentations Overview**

**Action: Water level variability animation to be distributed.**

### **220617-138-6.2 Board Meeting Overview**

Nil

### **220617-138-6.3 Items for future Board Meetings**

- For the next meeting in Berri invite locals i.e. Destination Riverland and from the innovation trail, Leanne Rathbone and Karen Bishop.
- The new Chair of the Riverland NRM Group Anastasia Reed to be personally invited to the July Board meeting
- Commonwealth environmental water office is having fish forum on the 6 July at the Renmark Hotel. It has been advertised in the Drift. There is also a survey for reader's feedback. It would be great if the Board members could complete. For information at a future Board meeting provide a breakdown of who subscribes and any other stats.

**Action: Manager Community Engagement to provide information on subscriptions to the Drift as a part of the next Community Engagement update.**

### **220617-138-6.4 Any other business**

- The workshops are working well. There is stimulating and interesting conversation and is valuable for the RMT and Regional Director.

**Action: Executive Officer to send Group chairs calendar for attendance at Board meetings.**

**Action: Executive Officer to email the Board a copy of the updated Board Committee Membership.**

**220617-138-6.5      Next Meeting**

Thursday 27 July 2017 Berri NRC

**220617-138-6.6**      Public Meeting closed at 16:20pm

**Presiding Member Sharon Starick**

**Presiding Member**

**SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board**