



**Minutes - Public Meeting 139**  
**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Thursday 27 July 2017 – Berri NRC – 13:09pm**

**1. Meeting Procedure**

**270717-139-1.1 Attendance Present:**

Chair: Sharon Starick

Members: Rod Ralph, Deana Mildren, Kim Blenkiron, Owen Love, Andrew Kassebaum, Tim Smyth and Dan Jordan

Ex Officio: Mike Williams, Denise Fowles, Melanie Rowe, Claire Stephenson, Sonia Dominelli, Louisa Halliday, Sandy Gunter and Renee Clark (minutes)

**Apologies:** Gioia Small, Peter Duggin, Ben Fee and Garry Fyfe

**Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Opening**

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians.

**270717-139-1.2 Declaration of Interest**

**270717-139-1.3 Consent Schedule**

Item	Topic	Motion
1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 138 held on 22 June 2017	The Board <b>approves</b> the Minutes of Meeting 137 held on 22 June 2017, Board notes the attachments.
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 June.
5	Update – Flows for the future	To <b>note</b> activities and implementation progress of the F4F program.
6	NLP Audit update	To <b>note</b> the information provided regarding the 16/17 NLP Performance Audit and 17/18 self-assessment process.
7	Correspondence from Steve Costello	To <b>note</b> the information provided in relation to correspondence from Mr Steve Costello
8	Applications submitted to the Threatened Species Recovery Fund	To <b>note</b> these four applications submitted to the Australian Government Threatened Species Recovery Fund, one where the NRM Board are the proponent and three as partner agency.
9	2017-18 Connecting Community Grants	To <b>note</b> the final results of the 2017-18 NRM Connecting Communities Grants round and the risks and key messages for communicating the funding outcomes.

The below items were removed from the consent schedule for discussion

**Regional Directors Report**

**Discussion**

The Board questioned the additional 2.5 FTE from Major Projects and it was indicated that the positions were fully funded through Major Projects. Manager Community Engagement Claire Stephenson will be their line manager.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

## To note the Regional Directors Report - Resolved

### Applications submitted to the Threatened Species Recovery Fund

#### Discussion

- The process for approving the funding was questioned by the Board.
- RMT generated the application and the PM signed the approval. If there was a significant contribution that sits outside the Annual Operating Plan it would have been brought to the Board for consideration. The Board questioned if the investment had been budgeted for. There is a co-contribution and the investment is to going into on-ground works.
- A recent LGA meeting discussed Ngarkat - this could have been an opportunity to show good investment. Resources are deployed where the greatest need is. It would be worth talking to the Southern Mallee about the investment at Ngarkat. Given the budget constraints it would be useful for the Board papers to include if there are any budget implications or risks.

#### The Board endorsed the recommendation:

To note the four applications submitted to the Australian Government Threatened Species Recovery Fund, one where the NRM Board are the proponent and three as partner agency.  
- Resolved

Action: Executive Officer to change template to include budget implications and risk for Board papers.

#### 270717-139-1.4 Action Sheet

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

#### The Board endorsed the recommendation:

To note the Action Sheet for information. - Resolved

## 2. Board Matters

#### 270717-139-2.1 Innovation Trail

Leanne Rathbone provided a presentation to the Board on the Innovation Trail – see attached.

#### Discussion

- The Board suggested the Innovation Trail project present to the Riverland councils to involve them especially with planning and development applications.
- The Board questioned if there is there an intent for the Innovation Trail to become its own entity. The project is flexible and able to be moved around if needed and currently sitting with Landcare groups.
- There is a lot of interest in power generation on vacant blocks.
- It was questioned if there was a NRM link, the main outcome is about communities having resilience through drought.
- The Board questioned how funding is going to expand, at the moment the project is not ready to expand. The project find that smaller funding opportunities are easier to source. The Board questioned if there were resources within the project to seek alternative funding sources, for example RDA, CIT, Local Government and industry groups to continue the project.
- The focus of the project is currently on the Riverland, there are communities down the river that would be interested in a similar project.
- The project is a central point to bring innovation together within the Riverland.
- The Board felt that the project needs to look outside of Government grants for funding and have a clear direction.

#### 270717-139-2.2 Chowilla / Lakes and Coorong - The Living Murray outcomes

Adrienne Rumbelow and Jan Whittle provided the Board with a presentation on the Chowilla, Lower Lakes, Coorong and the Living Murray Program – see attached.

## **Discussion**

- Coordinating the environmental water, the upstream sites have return flows. It depends on the rules in each state the water holder and the setup of the icon site.
- There was concern for access for canonists at Chowilla, in high flows as there is less room for them to get through the real demand needs to be considered and options are being considered.

### **270717-139-2.3 River Murray Alliance – Governance Document**

Sharon Starick provided information on the River Murray Alliance's governance document and the discussion at the alliance meetings. This stems from the house boat issue and the environmental impacts. Consistent development planning may be implemented all along the river. The governance paper proposes an MOU through to having an authority for example the MDBA.

## **Discussion**

- The Board questioned how it would be funded and who would be the owner, the Board felt that it was a great idea but someone needs to take ownership. The State Government needs to back the plan.
- It's not clear from the paper about the scope, if the issue is planning it could be solved by the councils coming together to have a consistent approach. DPTI is the key stakeholder and have funded the early work.
- DPTI have undertaken a planning reform and two pilots with the idea being that a regional/collective planning assessment body for consistency. It was mentioned in the paper, if the Board are going to have any input keeping the consistency is important.

### **270717-139-2.4 Native Vegetation Regulations**

Emily Jenke from the Native Vegetation Council provided a letter to the Presiding Member regarding the changes to the Native Vegetation Regulations. The Native Vegetation Council invite the Board to provide feedback regarding the interim guidelines closing on the 7 September 2017.

## **Discussion**

- The staff are attending training next week on the interim guidelines.
- The Board felt that it is important that the staff use the interim guidelines and complete a desktop comparison and report back to the Board on the differences and seek an extension to provide feedback at a later date.
- The Board suggest that in 6 months' time review the changes and see how the implementation is working.

## **3. Finance and Risk**

### **270717-139-3.1 Finance and Risk Committee Report**

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

- Financial Reports and Statements to the 30 June 2017
- Minutes of the Financial Governance Committee meeting held in July

## **Discussion**

- The Board need to consider how the Treasury's cash mechanism is managed once the letter has been received.
- Board Governance Document is important for audit and will be considered at the next Finance and Risk Committee meeting. If the Board members have any comments they need to send them to the Executive Officer and the Manager Business Services.
- The SLA and schedules - Shared Services have changed their methodology on how it is calculated the rates have not changed, and are being done on a pro-rata basis, clarification is being sought. The charging model will not be changed and the SLA will remain the same and can be signed off.
- Inventory had not been included previously.
- Budgets for 17/18, will be loaded in August which are what DTF and cabinet have approved but will not mirror the AOP.

- There are no surprises as of 30 June, even though not 100% finalised it is what the Board expected. The ledger has been updated since the reports were prepared some will be under but are still tied to commitments.
- A portion of the carryover is for the on farm irrigation. Some will be required for 17/18 the Board will need to decide if it is spent or saved.
- Any water levy penalties received throughout the year are not allocated which is unknown at this stage, this will be additional monies received.
- The interest earned on COFFEE could be retained by the Board but at this stage this is only verbal and the Manager Business Services would like it in writing.
- The Financial statements are being prepared the team is working with shared services to make any changes necessary for sign off on the 11 August.
- The interim audit commenced the auditors visited on the 20 and 21 July it was focused on financial controls and last year's recommendations. The auditor was focused on the Financial Management program and happy to see it was completed this year. Manager Business Services questioned FMCP's timing it will be interesting to see the results. The Auditor was keen to see the risk register and the governance document and was positive of the changes that are being made to improve. They are looking at consistency across all Boards.
- The Presiding Member thanked the finance team for their efforts and their hard work.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To notes the financial reports for the period ending 30 June 2017 and to notes the key strategic issues and risks presented, including**

- a) That the Board may have an insufficient cash to meet obligations in the first quarter of 2017/18.**
- b) The existing and predicted cash impact to the Board bank account relating to the PIIPSA and OFIEP projects, and requirement to quarantine levy expenditure authority**
- c) That a decision will be required regarding whether to utilise or quarantine levy carryover**

**Resolved**

### **270717-139-3.2 Board and Groups Claim Process**

Renee Clark, Executive Officer provided a paper to the Board to seek approval for the revised remuneration and expense claims process for the Board, Groups and Committee's

#### **Discussion**

- The requirements of the circular have not changed. The process for the Board's approval will simplify claims processing from an administrative point of view - assist turnaround time of payments to members and how quickly the costs hit the ledger.
- There are concerns with the considerable investment of personal time to read GARP papers etc. at no remuneration as payment is only for meeting attendance.

**Action: the current Board GARP members Deana and Rod to explore the issues, and Manager Planning and Evaluation to assist in working through the options before a paper is brought back to the Board in September.**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To adopt the attached claims processing procedure - Resolved**

### **270717-139-3.3 Risk Register / Risk Appetite**

The Finance and Risk Committee provided a paper to the Board to seek approval for the Board's Risk Management Approach and updated Risk Register.

#### **Discussion**

Letter from Sandy re cash mechanism will inform any changes to risk #6.

The Board discussed that the register is for the Board. DEWNR have their own risk register.

The Board suggest that the Finance and Risk committee consider if there are any specific projects that are high risk enough to need a specific risk acknowledged.

**Action: F&R Committee to consider any specific project-related that need to be added to the Risk Register**

**Action: Rename F&G Committee to F&R Committee in risk #4**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To adopt DEWNR's Risk Management Policy**

**To approve the Board's Risk Register as at July 2017**

**To approve the Guiding Principles for SAMDB NRM Board Risk Management - Resolved**

#### **270717-139-3.4 Financial Management Compliance Program**

The Finance and Risk Committee provided a paper to the Board to seek approval of the Financial Management Compliance Program (FMCP) for the year ending 30 June 2017.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To approve the Financial Management Compliance Program (FMCP) for the year ending June 2017**

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

#### **270717-139-4.1 Correspondence**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the correspondence received - Resolved**

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

#### **270717-139-5.1 Board Committees - Reports and Minutes from Meetings**

- Work plans - the Board noted progress for Riverland and Ranges to River Groups but ask that they provide updated work plans for the September Board meeting.
- The Board encourage that the Riverland Group to be more targeted in their work plan updates. The Board noted the group has taken their recommendations to outreach to other organisations not contacted previously, and encourage them to continue to expand their networks.
- The Board to communicate back to Mallee and Coorong and Rangelands Groups that they are happy with their updated work plans.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To approve the Workplans of the Mallee and Coorong and Rangelands NRM Groups - Resolved**

- Alex Randall is yet to officially resign from the Ranges to River group, however is now in breach of the Group's Terms of Reference

**Action: Board to write to Alex Randall advising that she can no longer be a Ranges to River NRM group member.**

#### **270717-139-5.2 Members Reports**

- Board member Rod Ralph provided an update from the Pike Community Reference Committee.
- Board member Deana Mildren provided an update on GARP.

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

### **270717-139-6.1 Board Presentations Overview**

Board Member Kim Blenkiron provided the Board with an overview of the Board presentations.

- Appreciated Claire's deep dive into the CE program. Looking forward to others. Concerned Sandy's team have lost the ability to be innovative due to budget constraints.
- The Living Murray presentation it was great to hear from those who are enthusiastic.

### **270717-139-6.2 Board Meeting Overview**

Board Member Kim Blenkiron provided the Board with an overview of the Board meeting

- Four Corners - good discussion
- There is confidence in the figures from the Finance and Risk Committee which is good to see.
- GARP – can it be made valuable for the members involved given the commitment required - not necessarily through dollars

### **270717-139-6.3 Items for future Board Meetings**

Nil

### **270717-139-6.4 Any other business**

- SA and the Environment survey - Board member needed to open each of the regional sessions. 2 in SAMDB region - Loxton 14 August and Murray Bridge 15 August. Sharon can attend on the 14 August if Peter Duggin is unavailable. Deana Mildren or Kim Blenkiron will attend Murray Bridge. Sharon Starick will advise the Manager Community Engagement know who will attend.
- The Citizen Science showcase is looking for a Board member to attend to present the awards. Peter Duggin may be able to attend the Riverland showcase and Owen Love will attend the Strathalbyn presentation. Sharon will forward the email to Owen with the details and will negotiate with Peter.
- The State wide Wild Dog Reference Committee have requested Board representation. The Board discussed that it would be worthwhile having someone from Rangelands NRM group involved. The Board agreed that this is referred to the Rangelands NRM group for discussion and suggest that it doesn't need to be an existing group member. The Board suggested that perhaps David Lindner may be appropriate.
- The Eyre Peninsula Board letter to David Speirs - the Board agreed to send a similar letter to David Speirs.

**Action: Manager Planning and Evaluation and Manager Community Engagement to prepare a letter for Sharon's signature and include the information that went to Local Councils regarding the annual operating plan.**

**Action: Board members to receive a final copy of the AOP 4 pager**

### **270717-139-6.5 Next Meeting**

Thursday 24 August 2017 Murray Bridge NRC

**270717-139-6.6** Public Meeting closed at 16:30pm

**Presiding Member Sharon Starick**  
**Presiding Member**  
**SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board**