



Minutes - Public Meeting 141
SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Thursday 28 September 2017 – Mount Barker NRO

1. Meeting Procedure

280917-141-1.1 Attendance Present:

Chair: Sharon Starick

Members: Rod Ralph, Deana Mildren, Gioia Small, Peter Duggin, Owen Love, Kim Blenkiron, Andrew Kassebaum and Ben Fee

NRM Group Member: Warren Jacobs (acting Ranges to River group chair)

Ex Officio: Mike Williams, Melanie Rowe, Claire Stephenson, Darren Willis, Amy Goodman, Denise Fowles, Sandy Gunter and Renee Clark (minutes)

Apologies: Garry Fyfe, Dan Jordan and Sonia Dominelli

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians. The Presiding Member on behalf of the Board would like to acknowledge all of the winners of the Landcare awards and the Premier's awards. The Presiding Member also wishes to acknowledge Sarah Kuchel who has left and will be sadly missed. Sincere thanks to Jayne Miller and the other staff involved at the Riverland field days. Thank you to the finance team with the end of year financial reporting it was great to have the extra time to look over the reports. Thank you to the Flows for the Future team for the site visit today it was great to see the sites working well.

280917-141-1.2 Declaration of Interest

Nil

280917-141-1.3 Consent Schedule

| Topic | Motion |
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| Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 140 held on 24 August 2017 | The Board approves the Minutes of Meeting 140 held on 24 August 2017 Board notes the attachments (presentations) |
| Presiding Members Report | The Board notes the report. The Board send a congratulatory letter to each of the State Landcare Conference Award winners and the Premiers NRM Award from our region. |
| Regional Directors Report | The Board notes the report. |
| Development Planning Summary | The Board approves the Planning Summary for August. |
| Bush Bids | To note these five Bushbids projects are at or near completion. |
| Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance update | To note the August 2017 Communique from the Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance and endorse the participation in the Indigenous Program. |
| Princess Royal Beef Cattle Feedlot Expansion | To note the status of the Princess Royal beef cattle feedlot expansion development approval with conditions. |
| Update to instruments of appointment of Regional Authorised Officers | To approve the appointment of Joshua James Rosser and Rebecca Fairlie Gould 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. |

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| Securing the long-term future of threatened wetland specialist fish across the SA Murray-Darling Basin. | <p>To note the status and risks to the future of the nationally endangered Murray hardyhead (<i>Craterocephalus fluviatilis</i>), the nationally vulnerable Yarra pygmy perch (<i>Nannoperca obscura</i>), southern pygmy perch (<i>Nannoperca australis</i>) and southern purple-spotted gudgeon (<i>Mogurnda adspersa</i>) in the SA Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>To note the status of efforts to secure future funding for a threatened wetland specialist fish species conservation and recovery program.</p> <p>To endorse proceeding with establishment and implementation of the RRP funded - Securing the long-term future of the Big (Little) 4: Developing and trialling a translocation strategy for threatened small-bodied freshwater fish across the SA Murray-Darling Basin Project</p> |
| Status of the environmental water pumping station at Tolderol Wetland | To note the advice of the status of the environmental water pumping station at Tolderol Wetland, the contingency plan in place and the process underway to resolve this issue. |
| Kangaroo Management Update – August 2017 | To note the kangaroo management update provided to the Board from the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board. |
| Riverland Field Days 2017 | To note the presence of Natural Resources SAMDB at the 2017 Riverland field days |

Discussion:

- There are several opportunities the Tri-State alliance has taken an interest in. The RRP project outlines are looking to explain the work, there is a project in progress across jurisdictions. They are considering a submission for the project. Each opportunity is independent of the others. All 3 are being explored and NAB grant funding is the most recent.

Action: Manager Planning and Evaluation to provide a report in May 2018 regarding the Princess beef feed lot for the Board and Rangelands NRM Group.

280917-141-1.4 Action Sheet

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

- Action item 1 is complete and noted in the Finance and Risk committee agenda item.
- Action item 3 has been completed at the September Finance and Risk committee

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

To note the Action Sheet for information. - Resolved

2. Board Matters

280917-141-2.1 Connecting Community Update

Board member Deana Mildren provided the Board with a verbal update on the latest Connecting Community working group meeting.

Discussion:

- The group met last week Emily Jenke attended and facilitated a workshop to investigate other perspectives. The group are working towards a recommendation for the November Board meeting.

Board Member Deana Mildren left the meeting at 14:30

280917-141-2.2 Feedback from MP's Visit

Presiding member Sharon Starick provided the Board with a verbal update on the recent MP's visit.

Discussion

- Both State and Federal MP's have been visited with the A3 document which describes what we are doing 17/18 financial year being handed out and an A4 of achievements for 2016/17.
- Rebekha Sharkie member for Mayo was very interested in the work being done and wanted to better understand what the Board did and NLP2.

- The tone of the conversations have been positive with feedback on need to continue to talk about achievements and 'telling the story'.

280917-141-2.3 Strategic Planning Day

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided the Board with a paper seeking endorsement of the proposal to hold a strategic planning workshop as part of the December 2017 Board meeting and to seek feedback from the Board on the elements of the strategic planning workshop.

Discussion:

- Given the feedback from the survey is there an alternative way to have the same outcome.
- The Board would like to suggest someone to facilitate that has a background in business and government that will challenge the Board.
- The Board offered suggestions for a facilitator Angela Hazebroek URPS, Tania Perry and Paul Dalby.
- The current results of the Board evaluation survey suggest that the Board needs to get back on track.
- The Board suggested a debrief on the last 12 months.
- Sharon Starick, Gioia Small and Ben Fee nominated to join the working group to develop the planning day.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To hold a strategic planning workshop as part of the December 2017 Board meeting.**
- **To engage an external facilitator to run the workshop.**
- **To form a working group to prepare the workshop, including the nomination of Board members.**

Resolved

280917-141-2.4 State Wide Communications Strategy

Presiding member Sharon Starick provided the Board with a verbal update on the State Wide Communications Strategy.

Discussion:

- There will be a workshop with community engagement managers from all 8 regions and looks at how we can have consistent messages across the state. This communication plan will shine a light on the dilemmas that we face.
- It will also look at marketing and the brand of NRM.
- Depending on where this gets to, it could be included in the strategic planning day.

24082017-140-2.5 NLP 2 Update

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided the Board with a paper with an update on the new National Landcare Programme.

Discussion:

- Unfortunately still waiting on what NLP2 is going to look like and there is likely to be more information by December.
- Amy Goodman is currently the region's point of contact for NLP2.
- Rowan Ramsey made an announcement, they are not sure how the \$450 million over 5 years would be allocated.
- There is a webinar in relation to how the tender process will work.
- The focus across the state is let's all work together with a range of different partners and put in really solid bids.
- Rod attended a workshop and the topic items are listed on page 80 of the Board papers, Deana attended the trees for life workshop.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

To note the update on NLP2 - Resolved

24082017-140-2.5 \$200 Debt Waivers

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided the Board with a paper to update the Board on the process for resolving the \$200 minimum NRM water levy for 153 water licence holders who have active water licences with zero allocations as a result of the permanent transfer of water allocation or volumetric conversion that pre-dates the 2016-17 water use year.

Discussion:

- Letters have been sent to 121 licence holders, the difference being 30 that have already indicated that they are going to surrender their licence and 5 will be holding onto their license. An update will be provided at the November Board meeting.
- The Board have the authority to waive any debts owing to the Board.

The Board endorsed and approved the recommendations:

- **The note the update on the process for resolving the \$200 minimum NRM water levy for 153 water licence holders who have active water licences with zero allocations as a result of the permanent transfer of water allocation or volumetric conversion that pre-dates the 2016-17 water use year.**
- **To approve the quarantining of up to \$30,600 water levy expenditure authority from 2016-17 carryovers (subject to approval)**

Resolved

3. Finance and Risk

280917-141-3.1 Finance and Risk Committee Report

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

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

Discussion

- There is a carryover of \$950k of levy funds the committee will consider this funding at the next meeting and provide a paper to the Board with options.
- The SLA attachments have been signed for 17/18, this was an audit finding.
- The committee discussed debtor's, the not due are recent invoices that are less than 30 days.
- There is a pie chart analysis of a period of time to show the profile of how the money is being spent.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To notes the financial reports for the period ending 31 July 2017.**
- **To note the draft financial statements**

Resolved

4. Correspondence and Information Items

280917-141-4.1 Correspondence

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the correspondence received - Resolved**

5. Board Committees and NRM Groups

280917-141-5.1 Board Committees - Reports and Minutes from Meetings

Discussion:

- The report was useful, one comment that would encourage the M&C not to undersell themselves particularly the influence they had on the priorities that they provided to Paul Gillen as well as a very positive local government committee meeting.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the report - Resolved**

280917-141-5.2 Members Reports

Ranges to river:

- At the group's last meeting they talked to Tony Randall about Landcare projects, discussed Flows for the Future and Wombats.
- One of the new members may be able to take on the GARP role. For that new member it would be worth having a meeting prior to GARP to assist in the process. Mentoring people through taking on these new roles would be helpful.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

To note the report - Resolved

Mallee and Coorong

Action: A letter to be drafted for Graham Gates thanking him for his contribution to NRM in the region.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **Acknowledge the contribution of Graham Gates in Natural Resource Management in the region.**
- **To note the minutes of the meeting held on September 6.**
- **To note the next meeting of the Mallee and Coorong NRM Group will be held on 28th September.**

Resolved

Rangelands

Discussion:

- The group had a senior geologist attend to discuss ground water.
- It is important that we can feed the monitoring data back to the Group.
- Workshops on monitoring their own water levels would be useful.
- The new Burra office is a great community space
- The Group were not happy about having to make additional community connections. They have a focus on reaching out to youth.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:-

- **For the Group and staff to host a 'measuring your own water levels' training in the region. - Resolved**

RMAC

Discussion:

- The lower Murray developments, there is more information being sought.
- RMAC are up to the 3rd meeting of the ELMA report.
- They had a 50% response rate to a survey.
- The minister would like a royal commission into allegations made by 4 corners report.
- RMAC would like a subcommittee to look at the carryover policy. Technically they are unable to as the Board would need to approve. RMAC believe it is important and would like the Board to give Lyz Risbys team funding to investigate. Evette Colton's team may already be looking into this. The Board discussed that it would be more beneficial for all of RMAC input into carryover policy, rather than forming a subcommittee.

NRM Group work plans

Discussion:

- The Board approve the submitted work plans.

Owen Love

- Attended and presented the Citizen Science award in Strathalbyn, the recipient Peter Kosh it was inspiring to see a community member so active in his community. It was an honour to give him an award for his service.

Rod Ralph

- Upper pike extraction policy discussion, Peter did a presentation there was good discussion and is being firmed up for the purpose of what that site's limitations are. If there is greater capacity why can't we look at increased extractions? There were explanations given that were great and the science provided was sound, Alicia Wright was great.

Kim Blenkiron

- Recently attended Smart Living training which was based on what households can do to make a difference to the environment.

Gioia Small

- Attended a discussion group, Dan Jordan, Alistair Watt were on the panel. Transparency came out as the common theme. Providing information on water markets, this has been done well by private industry.

Sharon Starick

- Mike and Sharon attended the MDBA forum it was good and a great explanation around SDL adjustments and what the Basin plan is trying to achieve. There were representatives from organisations and around 15 individual members of the public. The video from the website is a great explanation and breaks through the acronyms.

Action: Community Engagement team to include a link to the video on the SDL adjustment into the Drift publication.

6. Presentations/Overview of Meeting

280917-141-6.1 Board Presentations Overview

- The program reviews were informative and the deep dive is worthwhile, the papers prior helped form questions.

280917-141-6.2 Board Meeting Overview

- The field visit was very interesting and worthwhile. It is good to get out there and meet some of the project people and get to know them and what they are doing. It would have been useful to get the landholders perspective and for them to see the Boards interest. Enabling of individuals to access data via a phone app at a later date would be great.
- The group was a good dynamic. There was good discussion and not rushed.

280917-141-6.3 Items for future Board Meetings

SARMS 3RP for the November meeting

280917-141-6.4 Any other business

- Ben will be finishing up at the end of the year.
- The Board will trial the use of Drop Box for receiving Board papers.
- Board succession planning is still underway.
- Sharon will send an email link from the MDBA looking for community members.

Action: Community Engagement team to include the MDBA link in the Drift

280917-141-6.5 Next Meeting

Thursday 26 October 2017 Berri NRC

280917-141-6.6 Public Meeting closed at 4:00pm

Presiding Member Sharon Starick

Presiding Member

SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board