



Minutes - Public Meeting 134
SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
Thursday 23 February 2017 – Mount Barker NRO– 10.07 am

1. Meeting Procedure

230217-134-1.1 Attendance

Present: Chair: Sharon Starick

<p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deana Mildren Gioia Small Owen Love Rod Ralph Nick Bakkum Andrew Kassebaum Dan Jordan (left at 2:25pm) Garry Fyfe 	<p>Ex Officio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy Goodman Claire Stephenson Sonia Dominelli Denise Fowles Sandy Gunter Renee Clark (minutes)
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Apologies: Members: Kerry Simcock, Kim Blenkiron, Tim Smythe and Peter Duggin

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledge the traditional custodians. The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting in particular the new Regional Director Mike Williams and also Garry Fyfe as the new SA Water representative pending the Ministers approval. The Presiding Member acknowledged and congratulated the Mallee Coorong Group and regional staff on hosting a successful soils forum at Bow Hill.

230217-134-1.3 Declaration of Interest

Board members Andrew Kassabaum, Nick Bakkum, Gioia Small, Deana Mildren and Presiding Member Sharon Starick declared a potential conflict of interest in the WAP/WRP and the Salinity presentation.

230217-134-1.4 Consent Schedule

Agenda Item	Topic	Att.	Motion
1.4	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 133 held on 16 December 2016	3a	The Board approves the Minutes of Meeting 133 held on 16 December 2016 Board notes the attachments (presentations)
1.4	Reporting Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presiding Members Report • Regional Directors Report 	3b	The Board notes the report.
1.4	Planning Summary	3c	The Board notes the report for information
1.4	Planning Summary	3d	The Board approves the Planning Summary for November.
1.4	RMAC Terms of Reference	3e	The Board approves the RMAC Terms of Reference

The Presiding Member provided some minor word changes for the minutes that do not change the intent.

The Presiding Member on behalf of Board member Peter Duggin referenced the RMAC terms of reference – Peter seeks clarification around a Deputy Chairperson, as RMAC does not have a deputy. The RMAC Terms of reference are due to be reviewed in May 2017.

Two options were put forward, if the Chair is unable to attend it is up to RMAC to choose a chair or the other option being the Board appoint a deputy for that meeting.

The Board approved the River Murray Advisory Council (RMAC) terms of reference as a working draft to be reviewed in May 2017. The Board agreed that a chair does not have to have their head around all of the issues, with potentially a Board member that could attend to chair the meeting which means the terms of reference would not need to be amended.

Amendments for the minutes, comments made by Board member Andrew Kassabaum regarding the Auditor General's Department and remuneration were missed. The Presiding Member Sharon Starick and Executive Officer Renee Clark will provide wording to Andrew for inclusion in the December minutes.

Action: Presiding Member Sharon Starick and Executive Officer Renee Clark will review and provided wording to Andrew Kassabaum to ensure his point is captured in the minutes for meeting 133 16 December 2016.

Action: RMAC terms of reference to be reviewed in May.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

**That the items on the Consent Schedule with relevant attachments and recommendations be approved.
Resolved**

230217-134-1.5

Action Sheet

Board received and noted the Action Sheet to December 2016 meeting.

Discussion

- The Presiding Member Sharon Starick and Regional Director Mike Williams will update and provide a revised action sheet for the next Board meeting. This will include clear achievable timeframes.
- The previous In-Camera actions have been assigned to a staff member to bring back to the Board for review.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

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

Resolved

2. Board Matters

230217-134-2.1

Presentation Snobs Creek Fingerling Cod Project

Presentation Attached

Qifeng Ye from SARDI/PIRSA provided a presentation to the Board.

Discussion

- At Kingston-on-Murray and in Renmark the fingerling were released occurred in the main channel of the river. Underwater obstructions have been removed from the river for recreational purposes so the Cod are moving off the main river to find suitable habitat.
- There has been sampling done at Chowilla since 2010 tracking has been carried out
- There are about 43,000 fingerlings going into the river in the Renmark area on the 26 February 2017, the Regional Director Mike Williams will be attending on behalf of the Minister.

- For the future, fish genetic testing is being developed to prevent the need to destroy the fish to see if they were introduced stock.
- The Board questioned how the return on investment is calculated, how does the Board calculate what it cost to replace a species. There are methodologies that can provide results for natural capital.

230217-134-2.2

CEWH Partnership

Presentation Attached

Darren Willis, Team Leader Floodplains and Wetlands presented to the Board.

Discussion

- 26 priority wetlands were scheduled to receive environmental water from Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO) but due to the high flows this resulted in no wetlands needing to be pumped.
- The Board was able to release funding back to the CEWO which assisted in managing the black water events in the river system.
- The Boards partnership with the CEWO has been very successful and there is hope that it will be extended into the future.
- Habitat has been restored with 1000's of Pelicans and Kangaroos returning. With this there has also been an increase to the pest population which will need to be monitored.
- It's a true compliment to the Department. It's a great outcome for everyone and hopefully it will be continued.
- CEWO see the Board as a premier partner.

230217-134-2.3

Coorong Investigations Project

Angus MacGregor, Program Manager, Coorong Investigations Project provided a paper and presented to the Board.

Discussion

- The Coorong investigations project is focused on 2 options. The Board questioned if there opportunity for other options for their management? There might be some ideas within the community, how can they be captured? The community want the agency to open up the project. The project has a tight deadline and structure.
- Once this component is done it may stimulate future plans for all relevant sites.
- Decisions should be made using good science. The Board need to look at the engineering and science and be committed to discussing with the community.
- What needs to be done in the longer term for the Coorong and Lower Lakes? Engineering will be critical. There is strong engagement in process already. Asset management also needs to be considered and include the local community. Conflicting community points of view also need to be considered.
- There was agency work done in 2014. Some of this was advanced in the feasibility. There are still key challenges so to do nothing under the basin plan there will be issues down here. Project is a good look for the State and the Board need to be seen to support full implementation.

Action:

- **Director, Water & Climate Change Dan Jordan and Regional Director Mike Williams to provide an update on the Coorong Investigations Project to the April Board meeting.**

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the commencement of the Coorong Investigations project**

Resolved

Renee Thompson and Joel Vandeppeer provided a paper and presentation to the Board.

Discussion

- The Board are pleased with the work being done in association with the River Murray water allocation plan. There are opportunities to unlock unused capacity within the site use approvals that will impact economic development without impacting on salinity management requirements.
- The next step is to have the issues paper which will be released in February 2017 for five weeks for feedback and then develop options.
- RMAC have received a briefing previously, Renee and Joel are attending the next RMAC meeting to provide an update.
- There have been exceeded site use approvals water licensing is dealing with this on a site by site basis.
- As a part of the review, the water use efficiency policy will be considered under the WAP the policy has been changed once the WAP is adopted, currently it's at 85% water use efficiency target.
- The Board questioned if the work by the Goyder institute had been considered? Currently the information hasn't been taken into account. Also Climate change has not been taken into account but the Basin plan covers climate change.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note that the Review of Irrigation Salinity Management Policy in South Australia – Issues Paper is currently being finalised, prior to being released for consultation in late February 2017.**

Resolved

230217-134-2.5

Regional Action Plan

Amy Lee, Senior Project Officer provided a paper and presentation to the Board.

Discussion

- 3 workshops were held with key technical experts which looked at each topic and ranked them into priority.
- There will be visibility to the RAP team to see who is accessing the website and which pages are visited.
- The Board felt that being able to see the action that is taking place in the region would be good for the future of the RAP.
- The Grant Assessment and Review Panel (GARP) could use this as a tool to raise community awareness around the regional issues. The connecting community's grants are using the RAP.
- The RAP team seek feedback about how to launch the RAP. There would be a soft launch, the other way would be to go through meetings within the SA Government, alliances, Council of Presiding Members. If people are attending meetings there is opportunity to talk about the RAP. This will help people get involved.
- A press release could be issued and aligned with world environment day in May. It's a good way to point people to our focus areas.

Action:

- **Board members to provide feedback to the RAP team by the 1 of March.**

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To provide feedback out of session to the Planning and MERI team on the functionality, appearance and content of the RAP online tool.**
- **Supported the proposed multi-method approach for launching the Regional Action Plan.**

- To provide support for hosting a celebration event on the evening of 23 March 2017 in Mannum, prior to the Boards and Group day
- To note the next steps and future work required, regarding the implementation of the RAP through the development of the MERI framework and Business and Operational planning for 17/18 and 18/19.

Resolved

The Board wishes to congratulate the RAP team and all involved on getting the RAP completed.

230217-134-2.6 Water Allocation Plan / Water Resources Plan Update

Lyz Risby, Water Resources Manager provided a paper to the Board.

Discussion

- SAMR Department are looking at revoking the notice of prescription for Noora which is the salt interception scheme. Consulting took place before December 2016 with the community. Meetings, letters to councils have been done and not one submission has been received.
- The Mallee WAP amendments have been consulted on and no concerns have been raised and work continues to incorporate indigenous content. Building aboriginal content into all plans can be done better.
- The low flows trial site report would be of great interest to the Ranges to River group.
- The Board would be interested in hearing about how the water comes back out of the high demand zones.
- Consolidated dams database needs to be completed before it goes out to the community.
- If maps can be provided to show where the high demand zones are. As well as piggy backing on flows to the future, letting people know that high demand is still an issue and trade could be used as an incentive. The Minister will not be releasing any unallocated water. Encouraging people to trade outside of their zones could lead to trading away their slack and that is a potential risk for people. Is there potentially to exempt people who have participated in programs?

Action:

- The Board would like to visit a securing low flow trial site at the next Mt Barker Board meeting.
- Lyz Risby will send out the low flows report to the Board members
- Claire Stephenson to arrange for Lyz Risby to be included on the Ranges to River agenda for a future meeting.

The Board endorsed the recommendations:

- To note the water allocation plan and water resources plan update.
- To note the number of projects that support development of the 2019 River Murray Water Allocation Plan and Water Resource Plan

Resolved

230217-134-2.7 Water Sensitive Information

Presentation attached

Yvette Colton, Senior Policy Officer provided a paper to the Board.

Discussion

- The Boards business plan decides on water levies. Many Board members have water rights the approach has been that when making a decision, previously that there has not been a conflict as it's an interest shared in common. The Board need to keep in mind if smaller categories are created then it's no longer an interest shared in common. If it's a standard increase to a rate it wouldn't trigger someone to sell but if it's a significant amount that may trigger a sale then restrictions around selling would need to be put in place.

- Water Sensitive information is an issue about the relevant prohibition on trade and if to release the information quickly to negate that issue.
- Members can be involved with the WAP right up until it's adopted apart from it being signed off. Until it's formally agreed upon changes can be made.
- Good meeting practice for meeting staff needs to be clear.
- Regarding the prohibition on trade, individual Board members need to think about how it's been perceived by the community.
- It's either treated as confidential or published quickly to keep everyone on a level playing field.
- Under current convention the Minister would not publish a draft WAP. There are no deputy arrangements in place but it may end up where the Board doesn't have a quorum and the Minister could appoint deputy members.
- The Board need to ensure they have good practices to address water market sensitive information and how that is communicated.

Action:

- **The sensitive water market information protocol to go to the Executive Committee and then to come back to the Board to endorse.**

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the attached meeting protocol for managing sensitive water market information at Board meetings (attachment 5).**
- **Undertake additional recommended actions to instigate checks and balances, control conflicts of interest and ensure proper management of sensitive water market information.**

Resolved

230217-134-2.8 Natural Resources Committee – Gluepot Reserve visit

The Presiding Member Sharon Starick informed the Board about the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament's potential visit to Gluepot Reserve in May.

230217-134-2.9 Strategic Planning Day Draft Notes

Claire Stephenson, Manager Community Engagement provided a paper to the Board.

Discussion

- The four key items are: Market segmentations, Positioning, Strategic relations and Role for board members
- What other existing priorities does the Board have? How can the RAP be linked to the four items and what is the Boards role and arrange presentations around this.
- At the next Board meeting the South Australian's and the Environment Survey may help link back to the RAP.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the attached documentation of the strategic planning workshop.**
- **Endorse the approach of workshopping with the Board at subsequent meetings, market segmentation, positioning, strategic relations and Board member roles.**
- **For the executive to determine workshop specifics.**

Resolved

230217-134-2.10 NRM Groups Future Directions

Claire Stephenson, Manager Community Engagement provided a paper to the Board.

Discussion

- Are the Groups still delivering what the Board needs? Not all regions have NRM Groups including AMLR who dissolved their groups. When the Board was established the Groups were there to work for the Board to access their links to community.
- The Groups are not as well-known as the LAP's who connect with the community very well. Land care groups also have a strong connection to the community.
- The Board and Groups day could be an opportunity to see what the Groups think about their involvement with the community. A professional facilitator to run this session would be essential.
- The Chairs and District Managers meeting which will be in March could be an opportunity to talk to the Chairs about their opinions and learnings.

Strengths

Local knowledge
Local Connection
Experience in non-NRM issues
Passionate about NRM issue and the local community
Live the outcome
Advocates
Filter of information
Test project assumptions

Weaknesses

Lack of diversity (gender, age not representative)
Hidden agenda's
Single issue focus
Narrow lens
Not self-managing
Not diverse experience/knowledge
Expensive
Time poor
Not access to wide range of information

Don't back Board decisions once decisions are made publicly

May not be best use of the Board and staff's resources

Opportunity

Reset engaged
Individuals for better outcome
Dissolve existing framework
Group task is done so resources can be reallocated
Expand deliberative muscle approach
Bring people in + targeted consultation

Threats

Loss of experience engaged individuals
Turn advocates to dissenters
No Clear Group to fill the void
Loss of connection to community
Board Reputation
Losing litmus test for staff

Action:

- **At the April Board meeting further deliberate on the discussions from the Board and Groups day in March.**

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To further consider all models for community connect including NRM groups and involve the NRM groups in the decision making**

Resolved

230217-134-2.11 Annual Operating Plan 17/18

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided a paper to the Board.

Discussion

- The Board is grateful for the team who pulled the document together to provide the information to the Board.
- With regards to some of the risks there are areas that have green dots and some are missing? Reports were not complete this is why the information is missing. The document is an easy system to pull together and the general feedback from staff is that its user friendly and not time consuming. Where there is a red diamond in future there will be a comment on how the risk will be mitigated.

- Financial Governance around resilient nature and lands being 25% over budget but the report says there is funding not spent? It is crucial that reporting is accurate.
- The next report will be provided to the April Board meeting.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the Annual operating plan progress report for the period July to December 2016.**
Resolved

230217-134-2.12 Northern Basin Board Submission

Amy Goodman provided a copy of the submission. In the key messages it highlights the importance of water resources.

Discussion

- The comments are for noting.
- The advice from DEWNR is that the Basin Plan needs to be delivered in full and on time before the Northern Basin changes can be considered.
- Collectively all of the water efficiency projects in SA have provided positive impacts and this needs to be included in the submission.
- Phillip Glide will be here next month there is potentially an opportunity to meet with him.
- The Minister is very comfortable with the submission and there was a positive response from the RDA.

230217-134-2.13 Better Water Planning Submission

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided a paper to the Board.

Discussion

A subcommittee pulled together some comments for the submission.

The highlights were:

- Comments were at a high level and contained good reminders as to why there is a need to get better at water planning.
- Specific comments on the aboriginal interest paper around using the terms economic interest's carefully and suggesting values would be more appropriate.
- There was opportunity for collaboration with other state jurisdictions particularly for the SA Murray-Darling Basin.
- The key messages under Climate Change were:
 - * Clarity about including Climate Change in the water planning framework and would it be on the precautionary principal or the evidence based it needs to be clear.
 - * There is strong support to include Climate change in the water planning framework and support for the identifying the risks in Climate change adaptation.
- Valuing the community's participation and opportunity to align the paper to other State Government priorities and programs.
- Fit for purpose science needs to be understandable by a broad range of stakeholders and individuals and needs to be radially accessible.
- Socio-economic decision making suggested that promotion of the benefits of holding a water licence needs to improve. There is opportunity to develop better messaging around holding a water licence.
- Accounting for all water use, volume of use wasn't clear if it was individual or as a whole resource or licence or un-licensed.
- Under quicker and more responsive water planning the Board noted the concept of a single drafting team and for the Board to have a relationship with the people writing the plans.
- Simplifying and standardising terminologies across jurisdictions which includes intra and inter state

- Simplifying water rights standardising terminologies to avoid confusion. So the information is readily available to developers to assist in making investment decisions.
- There are a suite of policy papers for the Minister when reviewing the WAP. This is supporting the system.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the Better Water Planning and Management options papers Resolved**

230217-134-2.14 Pest Parrot Management Trials

Sarah Lance, District Manager Ranges to River provided a paper to the Board to seek endorsement from the Board that an application for the Australian Government Control Tools and Technologies for Established Pest Animals and Weeds Programme, requesting the value of \$743,000, remain submitted with SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board as the lead proponent.

Discussion

This is a great project and is a huge issue for local regions.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **Supported the application to be submitted to the Australian Government Control Tools and Technologies for Established Pest Animals and Weeds Programme, requesting funding of \$743,000 over 3 years, with SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board as the lead proponent, and partnering regions of Kangaroo Island and Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges.**

Resolved

230717-134-2.15 Riverland Storm (11 November 2016)

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided the Board with a paper.

Discussion

The Board is keeping a consistent approach and providing on ground support.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the letter from the Renmark Paringa Council.**
- **Agreed that relief or rebates from the NRM Levy will not be an option for growers impacted by the Riverland Storm Event in November 2016.**
- **To approve the letter of response to be sent to the Renmark Paring Council.**

Resolved

230717-134-2.16 Board Representation Proxies

Feedback had come from the Groups that the Board would supply proxies if the Board member is unable to attend. The Board representatives

Go back to the Boards and committees spreadsheet update and allocate Board members.

3. Financial Management and Governance

230217-134-3.1 Financial Reports

Reports Attached

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

- Financial Reports and Statements to the 31 January 2017
- Minutes of the Financial Governance Committee meeting held in December and were noted for information

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- To note the Financial Reports to the 31 January 2017
- To note that based on current analysis, the Board may have an insufficient cash at 30 June 2017 to meet obligations in the first quarter of 2017/18.

Resolved

230217-134-3.2 Financial Authorisation for Board Business

Marg Tschirpig, Finance Manager provided the Board with a paper to seek the Boards approval for Financial Authorisations for Board business for 2016-17 for Position No.P01585 - Executive Officer.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- To approve the 2016-17 Financial Authorisation to the new Position P01585 – Executive Officer as per the attached Instrument and corresponding schedule.
- To approve that the Presiding Member affix the Common Seal and sign the legal Instrument of authorisation and initial the Schedule attached to the Instrument.

Resolved

4 Correspondence and Information Items

230217-134-4.1 Correspondence

Board to note correspondence and information received.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- To note the correspondence and information

Resolved

5. Board Committees and NRM Groups

230217-134-5.1 Board Committees - Reports and Minutes from Meetings

River Murray Advisory Committee

Minutes from meeting 9 December 2016 were noted.

NRM Group Reports and Minutes from Meetings

Reports to be provided by Board members attending NRM Group including any issues and actions required by the Board. Items arising from Group Reports highlighted below for Board consideration.

Discussion

- The Ranges to River group raised an issue around compliance and the requirements for the water allocation plan it would be good to get some further information on their comments. The Board over the last number of years have taken a stronger focus on education, engaging with communities rather than compliance.
- The Ranges to River group are keen to hear from Kym Rumbellow with regards to Flows for the future

- The Ranges to River soils forum is being held on the 1 March 2017 and all 160 tickets have been sold.
- Rangelands group raised questions around what steps are in place to protect the community from significant expansion of existing developments. The Council can provide the answers to the Groups questions.
- The Box Flat Dingo Board's management arrangement was discussed. The Box Flat Dingo Board is a shared committee between SAMDB and the SE Boards. They also receive funding from an external agency. The Presiding Member will discuss the matter with the Presiding Member of the SE NRM Board.
- The Mallee and Coorong group came up with the idea for a land holder brochure. This can be considered for 17/18 budget.

Action:

- **Denise Fowles to determine who is responsible for the appointments for the Box Flat Dingo Board.**
- **The Presiding Member to contact the Chair Roger Wicks to discuss the land holder brochure**

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the reports.**
- Resolved**

230217-134-5.2 Members Reports

- The Presiding Member, Sharon Starick and Regional Director, Mike Williams attended the Nature of SA forum. The no species loss strategy comes to an end this year there has been thinking around what is going to happen in the future for the state. The notes from the forum will be circulated with a discussion paper for the Board once available.
- Board member Deana Mildren provided an update on the long nose fur seals. Satellite tagging to start within the next couple of months. The cracker protocol is ready for fishes through winter. The community phone links will start again at the end of March. The FRDC have developed an app to measure fur seal activities. It's an ongoing issue, the seals that are around are creating problems for the fishing industry.

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

- **To note the Board members reports.**
- Resolved**

6. Presentations/Overview of Meeting

230217-134-6.1 Board Presentations Overview

The 3 presentations, Snobs Creek Fingerling Cod Project, CEWH Partnership and the Coorong Investigations Project were of a very high quality and very informative.

The Cod fingerling project there is a MERI downfall, but as this was not our project it was a PIRSA project.

230217-134-6.2 Board Meeting Overview

No need to repeat papers word for word, the key points are all the Board require. Papers should be regarded as read, discussion should be about recommendations/decisions.

230217-134-6.3 Items for future Board Meetings

The Salinity review and Coorong Investigations project will be updated at a future Board meeting.

230217-134-6.4 **Any other business**

Nil

230217-134-6.5 **Next Meeting**

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 23 March 2017, Murray Bridge.

230217-134-6.6 Public Meeting closed at 4.11pm

Presiding Member Sharon Starick

Presiding Member

SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board