



**Minutes - Public Meeting 137**  
**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Friday 26 May 2017 – Regional Council of Goyder Offices - Burra – 9.15pm**

**1. Meeting Procedure**

**260517-137-1.1 Attendance Present:**

Chair: Sharon Starick

Members: Rod Ralph      Deana Mildren      Nick Bakkum      Kim Blenkiron  
Ben Fee      Dan Jordan      Peter Duggin      Andrew Kassebaum

Ex Officio: Mike Williams      Amy Goodman      Denise Fowles      Melanie Rowe      Claire Stephenson  
Sonia Dominelli      Sandy Gunter      Renee Clark (minutes)

**Apologies:** Gioia Small      Owen Love      Garry Fyfe

**Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Opening**

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledge the traditional custodians. Sharon thanked all involved with the Mallee and Coorong and Riverland NRM groups for the effort put into the volunteer celebrations. Sharon acknowledged that the NLP funding has been announced it is a significant accomplishment to get the funding \$1 billion over 5 years. The 6 June at the Presiding Members forum there will be a presentation on NLP2. Sharon wishes to thank Kerri Simcock for her involvement on the Board.

**260517-137-1.3 Declaration of Interest**

Deena – Olive Paper

**260517-137-1.4 Consent Schedule**

Item	Topic	Att.	Motion
1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 136 held on 27 April 2017	2a	The Board <b>approves</b> the Minutes of Meeting 136 held on 27 April 2017 Board notes the attachments (presentations)
2	Presiding Members Report	2b-2h	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.
3	Regional Directors Report	2i	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.
4	Development Planning Summary	2j	The Board <b>approves</b> the Planning Summary for May.
5	Review of State Feral Goat Policy for South Australia	2k-2m	To note the process associated with the review of the State Feral Goat Policy following the 'Commercial Use of Goats across Pastoral Leases' Forum held in December 2016
6	Flows for the Future Update	2n	To note activities and implementation progress of the F4F Program.

**Discussion**

- Deena would like the Board to receive a copy of the Flows to the Future Communications plan.
- It needs to be clear to people that their water licence will be reduced if they do not participate.
- The focus should be on education not compliance.

**Action: Executive Officer to circulate a copy of the Flows to the Future Communication Plan out of session.**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

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

**Resolved**

**260517-137-1.5**

**Action Sheet**

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

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

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

**Resolved**

**2. Board Matters**

Manager Community Engagement, Claire Stephenson joined at 2:15pm via phone

**260517-137-2.1**

**NRM Groups – Future Directions**

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

**Discussion**

- The Board agreed to go with item 4 to retain the groups this year which will give time to thoroughly explore all options for connecting with the community.
- The paper doesn't provide any information about what it looks like if the Groups are not there.
- How would the Board get feedback from the community and where the issues are?
- The South East are also doing a review and the SA MDB Board could work with them with a view to having a decision by June 2018.
- The Boards expectations need to be clear to the Groups
- The Board discussed options like having short term groups to deal with issues rather than 1 group all the time.
- The Board would like to have additional detail around the Boards that do not have groups and what they have in place for connecting with their communities.
- Currently clearer boundaries need to be set for the Groups and re-instating the Boards involvement.
- Meeting times could be changed to bi-monthly.
- The Board support Claire with the proposed changes to the current groups.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To maintain NRM Groups for 17/18 with a view to looking at all options for better connecting to the Community with a clear plan to move forward.**

**260517-137-2.2**

**Terms of Reference and Group Membership**

The Board endorses all the Terms of Reference.

The Groups need to be advised of the changes to their Terms of Reference.

**Action: Code of ethics to be included on the agendas of the Groups.**

**Executive Officer to send ratified Terms of Reference to the NRM Group.**

**260517-137-2.3**

**Annual Operating Plan**

The Board workshop the Annual Operating Plan outside of the Board meeting with extensive discussion to understand and test the assumptions and components of the AOP.

**Discussion**

- Consider development of a communication plan that the Board can use for the community.
- The AOP is driven by RMT not DEWNR
- If FTE is the issue it would mean losing 9 FTE across the business.

**Action: RMT to start discussions on the 2018/19 AOP with the Board in March for early input**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To adopt the Operational Budget for 2017-18 as presented at Attachment 6a; with the following provisos:**

- **Inclusion of a budget for the Shared Services SA fee of \$255,000**
- **The Corporate Fee waiver is approved by the DEWNR Executive**
- **If Corporate Fee is not approved, the package will be resubmitted to the Board for re-prioritisation.**

**For the board, over the next 6 months to deliberate over the strategic delivery that would influence the 18/19 budget and the process for approving the 18/19 AOP be started in March 2018.**

**Resolved**

#### **260517-137-2.4 Connecting Landscapes Program**

Janet Gellard provided a presentation to the Board on the Connecting Landscapes program. Denise Fowles provided a paper on the investment approach for the Connecting Landscapes for the 2017/18 financial year.

##### **Discussion**

- The Board discussed how they can manage the community's expectations. The Board need to look into its investments and exit strategies for some projects, what would an exit strategy look like for this project? The infrastructure is there for the pastoralist to continue to use and with the current price for goats being the driver, there is no longer a need for the investment to be as considerable. There are other issues outside of goats that need to be considered.
- The Board questioned if there is merit for a levy to be placed on goats that becomes a fund to go back into support programs for the landscape. There is going to be a gap between the funding stopping and the rewilding project starting.
- The Board note attachment 7a only attachment 7 is for decision.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**That there is funding for the Connecting Landscapes Program of up to \$40,000 to cover:**

- **\$20,000 for work associated with the bookmark rewilding project**
- **Up to \$20,000 for threat abatement**

#### **260517-137-2.5 State NRM Plan**

Amy Goodman provided a paper to the Board with a draft submission for approval regarding the review of the State NRM Plan.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To approve the attached submission letter and contents regarding feedback on the proposed review of the State NRM Plan**

#### **260517-137-2.6 Commonwealth NLP Audit Update**

Amy provided an update on the NLP audit. The NLP audit is starting next week with the questions having been provided and the evidence is being collated. The audit is at administration/governance level not regarding on ground works.

#### **260517-137-2.7 GARP Recommendations for Connecting Community Grants**

Jem Tesoriero, Team Leader NRM Communities, provided a paper to the Board.

The Connecting Community Grants are funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (NLP), Regional Allocation and the SAMDB NRM Board levy. The table below shows the funding sources and amounts for each year of the program including an additional 'up to' levy amount being sought through 2017-18 operational planning in red.

<b>Funding source</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
Aust Govt NLP Regional Allocation (Sus Env & Sus Ag)	\$671,200	\$448,481	\$448,481	\$448,481
Levy – confirmed	\$445,000	\$585,000	\$485,000	\$285,000
Levy – sought through operational planning				\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,116,200</b>	<b>\$1,033,481</b>	<b>\$933,481</b>	<b>\$933,481</b>

The call for applications for the 2017-18 round was made on 1 March 2017 and applications closed on 30 March 2017. Thirty-nine applications were received (double the number received for 2016-17) totalling \$1,696,753. All projects were assessed by a range of technical staff and these scores and comments were provided to the Grant Assessment and Review Panel (GARP) for their consideration.

GARP recommended 17 projects within the confirmed budget amount (\$733,481) and 6 projects recommended for any additional funding approved through the operational planning process.

#### **Discussion**

- Kim Blenkiron left the room as she is an applicant for a Connecting Community Grant. A member of the public also left the room as was also an applicant.
- The Connecting Communities Grants were a highly competitive process.
- RMT suggested \$920k which could fund 6 additional projects.
- The Board questioned if the 6 additional projects were worthwhile spending the additional funding on. It was indicated that the additional 6 projects were all good projects delivering good outcomes.

#### **The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To approve funding to the Connecting Communities Grants projects recommended by the GARP subject to the availability of funding.**

#### **260517-137-2.8 Regional Directors Observations**

Regional Director Mike Williams provided a paper to the Board on his observations into the last few months with potential opportunities for efficiencies.

#### **Discussion**

- The Board agreed to trial not having an Executive for the next 6 months then review.
- Workshops prior to Board meetings could provide blue sky thinking.
- The Board agree to be digital by default.
- Correspondence approved to come as a separate file.
- The Board did not support the Bi-Monthly meetings at this stage due key priorities for the Board to be progressed and requirements to ensure Board meets Basin Plan obligations but to review in the future.

#### **The Board endorse the following recommendations:**

**To review the need for an Executive Committee, adopt 'digital by default' for all Board papers, approve correspondence being provided electronically in a separate file, approve Workshops being held prior to Board meetings, approve noting papers being included on the Consent Schedule.**

#### **260517-137-2.10 Wildling Olive Policy**

Peter Michelmore provided a paper to the Board regarding the Wildling Olive Policy

#### **The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To endorse the draft policy on wildling olives  
RESOLVED**

### **3. Finance and Risk**

### **260517-137-3.0 Finance and Risk Committee Report**

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

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

#### **Discussion**

- It is likely that the Attorney Generals Department will note that past issues raised have not been addressed. There are now systems in place so that the issues do not arise again.
  - There will be OFIEP budget adjustments
  - Financial Statements for 2017 need to be signed by the 11 August.
  - Central Finance have advised that there will be changes up to the end but a good draft will be provided by the 4 August.
- Debtors owing are with debt collectors. It is improving every month.

**Action: Information regarding the corporate fee – what it includes and what it doesn't- to be distributed to the Board**

The Board endorsed the recommendation:

To note the financial reports.

Peter Duggin, Amy Goodman and Sonia Dominelli left the meeting at 15:30

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

### **260517-137-4.1 Correspondence**

#### **Discussion**

- A response to a letter Tony Meisner has been completed and sent outlining the recruitment process for the Riverland NRM Group.

**Action: A response to be provided to the Board regarding the letter from Steve Costello**

**Action: Copy of the response letter to Tony Meisner to be included in June Board meeting correspondence**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the correspondence received  
Resolved**

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

### **260517-137-5.1 Board Committees - Reports and Minutes from Meetings**

**Ranges to River Group** - n/a

**Mallee Coorong Group** - n/a

**Rangelands** - n/a

**Riverland Group** Notes in the minutes regarding Cat management changes are to be made by the next meeting

#### **NRM Group Work Plans**

##### **Discussion**

##### **For all work plans:**

- The Board suggest the Groups develop 3 new relationships within their communities within the next 12 months being Groups they haven't accessed before. The Board to provide some suggestions for industries to connect with i.e. Health
- Suggested providing clear KPI's and areas to focus on.

- Section 7 of the work plan focus on what the Group is going to do this year it needs to be clear on what they are going to achieve.

**Ranges to River:**

- Encourage to move quicker and revise the work plans suggestion to hold less meetings but be more productive. Focusing on a smaller number of tasks with obvious outcomes so that they can be held to account. The plan is not specific enough.

**Mallee Coorong:**

- Continuation of the influence mapping is important for connection to community.

**Riverland**

- The group needs to further develop the work plan with the new chair, refocus and have specific detail and outcomes.
- Suggest working where appropriate with Rangelands on Goat's

**Rangelands:**

- The Group to consider their role with the Goat steering committee.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the reports.**

**Resolved**

**260517-137-5.2 Members Reports**

- Rod attended as the Board's representative with Sonia Dominelli to Gluepot reserve with delegates from the Federal Government. There was a level of discussion on rewilding. It's not public lands so not sure why the visit happened. It was indicated that the NRC of Parliament often explores issues of natural resources management and is not confined to public lands.
- Rod attended where water planning and aboriginal culture meet. There was focus on reconciliation. Peta Brettig attended on behalf of DEWNR.
- Rod also attended a meeting with Correctional services on preventing reoffending there was not a lot of value for the Board but there are limitations for opportunities.
- Deana - Long nose fur seal meeting occurred on the 25 May, there is a proposal for a community committee. Seal crackers will be starting in 3 weeks. Fishing nets are being trialed.

**6. Presentations/Overview of Meeting**

**260517-137-6.1 Board Presentations Overview**

- The Board thought that Chris Daniels did a great presentation, looking at where NRM doesn't traditionally fit was interesting.
- Amy did a good job with the Annual Operating Plan budget presentation, there was good robust discussion.

**260517-137-6.2 Board Meeting Overview**

Nil

**260517-137-6.3 Items for future Board Meetings**

A presentation around each program areas and what the achievements to date are and where are we going?

Brett Bartel will be able to replace Greg Cock from PIRSA and present to the Board on Drought.

**260517-137-6.4 Any other business**

A replacement for Mike will be announced Monday.

**260517-137-6.5 Next Meeting**

Thursday 22 June 2017 Mount Barker NRC

**260517-137-6.6 Public Meeting closed at 5pm**

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