



**Minutes - Public Meeting 136**  
**SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board**  
**Thursday 27 April 2017 – Berri NRC – 11.15pm**

**1. Meeting Procedure**

**270417-136-1.1**

**Attendance Present:**

Chair:	Sharon Starick		
Members:	Deana Mildren	Rod Ralph	Gioia Small
	Nick Bakkum	Owen Love	Kim Blenkiron
	Garry Fyfe	Ben Fee	
Ex Officio:	Mike Williams	Amy Goodman	Denise Fowles
	Claire Stephenson	Sandy Gunter	Renee Clark (minutes)

**Apologies:**

Dan Jordan	Andrew Kassebaum	Peter Duggin
Kerry Simcock	Sonia Dominelli	Melanie Rowe

**Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Opening**

The Chair opened the meeting and acknowledge the traditional custodians. Sharon thanked DEWNR staff, NRM Groups and Board members for their support in all the events around the region over the last month. The Board wished to thank Pippa Cattanaach for all her hard work with SAMDB and wish her all the best in her new role with AMLR. The Board also wish to acknowledge the significant contribution to the Board of Stephanie Weinert.

**270417-136-1.3**

**Declaration of Interest**

**270417-136-1.4**

**Consent Schedule**

Item	Topic	Att.	Motion
1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting No. 135 held on 23 March 2017	2a	The Board <b>approves</b> the Minutes of Meeting 135 held on 23 March 2017 Board notes the attachments (presentations)
2	Presiding Members Report	2b	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.
3	Regional Directors Report	2c-2d	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.
4	Development Planning Summary	2e	The Board <b>approves</b> the Planning Summary for November.
5	Bush Bids update	2g	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.
6	NVC Significant Environmental Benefit Grant Stage 2	2h	The Board <b>notes</b> the report.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

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

**270417-136-1.4**

**Traffic light report**

The Traffic light report was removed from the consent schedule for discussion

**Discussion:**

- Within the Community Engagement section of the report there are gaps and risks associated with budget. Claire Stephenson advised that there are vacancies within the team and she and Pippa Cattanach are working on the gaps.
- The Board questioned if there are any risks with the Bush bids project. There is funding that needs to be returned to the Commonwealth and an audit is underway to finalise the amount.

**Action: Manager Community Engagement will add additional comments to reflect the risks into the report.**

**270417-136-1.5****Action Sheet**

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

**Discussion**

- Board members need to ensure their Pecuniary Interest forms are completed in a timely manner.
- Action regarding the \$200 minimum licence holders is still in progress and once approval from the Minister and Treasurer is received the letters will be sent out.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

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

**2. Board Matters****270417-136-2.1****Presentation David Dreverman and Di Davidson**

David Dreverman and Di Davidson from the Murray Darling Basin Authority presented to the Board on the Basin plan and their views on the Murray-Darling Basin and Basin Plan.

- The Basin Plan seeks to return water to the rivers to improve their health. It will not return to natural flow but will have a positive impact on the environment.
- Most residents in SA understand the importance of the river. SA irrigators understand that there is more water but they should not expect to get any more allocation. The increased flow is for environmental use to protect the wetlands and the lower lakes. There would be no need to disconnect Lake Albert. The increase to the environmental water will result in the environment not bearing the brunt of a dry year.
- Climate Change - Scientists have been telling us it will get hotter and dryer. 06/07 was that an anomaly or is that what is to come? MDBA has changed the way it looks at water and allocations to ensure there is water if there is a repeat of 06/07. Managing evaporation saved more water than the water restrictions in cities.
- Irrigators need to be smarter in the way they use water including using trade. SA have one of the most reliable water sources in the country the irrigators have not experienced the need to use carryover and trade but as we move into a climate change environment they will need to become aware of the options.
- Setting water aside is like insurance and you hope you never need to use it but it is there when you do. Drought management plans for businesses will help them recover quickly there are new ways of thinking around resilience planning. One lessons from the recent floods are businesses haven't been doing resilience planning.
- Employment loss - Communities blame the Basin Plan but crop genetics, pesticides and technology have changed the way crops are produced with the technology efficiencies reducing the need for labour which puts pressure on the community. Communities need to look at new ways of creating jobs. Community Leaders need to take the lead in creating resilient communities.
- Barrages and lock 0 - as irrigation development occurred the estuary would have intruded into the lower lakes more often, increasing salinity. Building the barrages helped irrigation development increase. You cannot have a natural estuary if you do not have a natural river and taking water from the river makes it not a natural river. In dry times within 4-5 months the estuary would become hyper saline. There are 36 gates that can be open and shut remotely that stops the sea water flowing

back into the river. 7 fish ways have been added and a new strategy is being worked on for the lakes. There is now a strong scientific understanding of how sediment moves up the mouth of the Murray.

- There are early signs of improvement in the Coorong and Lower Lakes and the natural resource. If the water regime is done right then the wetlands will start to recover.

### **Discussion**

- Griffiths and Leighton have increasing regional economies with Yarawonga has become a retirement centre and that creates new jobs.
- The Riverland is fragmented but is similar to Mildura in many ways, with the areas need to come together.
- Rural communities require strong leadership from the community, local governments and groups like the Board.
- The concern is real, they are small groups of people finding a new avenue of hope.
- Education is important, especially business educated to enable new markets to be found.
- Investors are looking around the world and they went to VIC first as they like the way water is allocated then on to SA and NSW.
- The Board asked what they could do to help the community to resilience plan. Education and work with all industries that irrigate and get the people to step outside and look at all the research that has been done. Using the Loxton centre in an educational role would be valuable.

The Presiding member thanked David and Di for their time and insights in the Basin and the Basin Plan and wished David all the best with his future retirement.

### **270417-136-2.2 Coorong Investigations Project**

Angus MacGregor provided a paper with an update on the Coorong Investigations Project.

### **Discussion**

- A community member has raised questions regarding the CIP, Claire Stephenson will talk to Angus regarding the community members concerns.

**Action: Manager Community Engagement to talk to Angus MacGregor regarding the community members concerns with the CIP**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

- **To note the status of the Coorong Investigations Project**

### **270417-136-2.3 Board and Groups day outcomes**

The notes from the Board and Groups day were provided to the Board for discussion.

### **Discussion**

- The Executive are working on the next steps and ways to engage with the community.
- Manager Community Engagement will provide a paper to the next Board meeting with recommendations.
- The Riverland group felt there were too many staff at the Board and Groups day.
- There is time for a rethink and focus on what we want forgetting about the existing structures and focusing on what the Board want to achieve.
- Suggest a workshop session at the May Board meeting. Nicole Halsey to facilitate the workshop. The Board brainstormed some important principles.

The model should consider these elements:

- Add value to the community connect effort
- Value = return on investment, alignment, more people doing NRM better,
- Demand driven by community
- Flexibility and Customisation
- Agility to respond to things in the short to medium term Pop up groups
- Issues based outcomes needs to be balanced
- Ability to connect early with people co-design principles

- Cost benefit analysis principles
- Accountable; review successes
- Strong connection with other community groups i.e. LAP do this well
- Looking for the opportunities rather than
- Foster community leadership
- Leverage other models i.e. cross fertilisation other areas i.e.
- Tap into a Social infrastructure other community industry and business groups
- Diversity types of community the Board is engaging with
- Community funding "Go fund me" instead of GARP

**Action: Manager Community Engagement to provide a paper to the Board with information and alternative options.**

#### **270417-136-2.4 Riverland Chair Nominations**

A paper was supplied to the Board regarding the chair of the Riverland Group for decision.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To appoint Anastasia Read to Chair Riverland NRM Group, with the term of appointment set at 12 months.**

**Resolved**

#### **270417-136-2.5 Committee Membership**

A spreadsheet with the committee membership was supplied to the Board for review.

##### **Discussion**

- GARP 8 May – The meeting requires a Board member to attend, Peter Duggin was contacted and is able to attend the meeting.
- Executive officers to ensure that proxies for the Groups are contacted if the Board member is unable to attend.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**That the interim**

**That Peter Duggin will attend the GARP meeting in place of Kerry Simcock.**

**Resolved**

#### **270417-136-2.6 Tri-State Alliance update**

The Regional Director provided an update on the Tri-State Alliance. The Tri-State alliance are lobbying the Commonwealth for funding for what will replace NLP. Sonia Dominelli will be the representative for SAMBD to attend the Tri-State Alliance meetings on the Regional Directors behalf.

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

**To note the update**

**Resolved**

#### **270417-136-2.7 Review of the State NRM Plan**

Amy Goodman, Manager Planning and Evaluation provided a paper to brief the Board on the review of the State NRM Plan.

##### **Discussion**

- Executive to draft a response at the next meeting ready for the May Board meeting.

**The Board endorse the recommendations:**

To note the update provided on the review of the State NRM Plan

To agree to provide feedback on the review of the State NRM Plan by the closing date of 31 May 2017.

To invite Hannah Ellyard, DEWNR project officer, to attend the May Executive Committee meeting to workshop the review of the State NRM Plan for a draft response to be developed for the May Board meeting.

Resolved

### 3. Finance and Governance

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

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

#### Discussion

- Papers that were missing to be provided to the Board members out of session.
- OFFIE project there are changes to the budget required, a reconciliation is being completed.
- Michelle Griffiths is positive that the solution provided to treasury will be accepted but there is still a risk that it will be rejected.
- Claims Management - Mel Rowe provided a verbal report at the Finance and Governance committee and a formal policy will come back to the Board. Remuneration for Board and Group members to ensure that we are complying with the December directive from the Minister.

**Action: Executive Officer will provide additional papers that went to the Finance and Governance meeting out of session.**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

- To note the Financial Reports and Minutes to the 31 March 2017

Resolved

### 4. Correspondence and Information Items

**270417-136-4.1 Correspondence**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

- To pay the Box Flat Dingo Committee \$2500 for the 2017/2018 financial year.
- To note the correspondence received

Resolved

### 5. Board Committees and NRM Groups

**270417-136-5.1 Board Committees - Reports and Minutes from Meetings**

#### Ranges to River Group

Discussed the low flows and are looking for consultation.

The Alexandrina discussion group have concerns around compliance.

#### Mallee Coorong Group

7 May at Pinnaroo the Group will hold the volunteer appreciation day

Still keen to do the landholder brochure it will need to be included in their future work plan.

They feel the Groups are a good structure for the region and its important having a Board member attend.

#### Riverland Group

Concerns were covered off at the recent meeting

7 May - Peter Duggin may be able to attend the volunteer appreciation day

## Rangelands

n/a

**Action: Manager Parks and Sustainable Landscapes will follow up on the comments regarding traps**

**The Board endorsed the recommendation:**

- To note the reports.**

**Resolved**

### **270417-136-5.2 Members Reports**

Ben Fee provided an update to the Board on the SARMS program.

- Gioia expressed how DEWNR communication regarding prescribed burns has improved it was excellent with a high level of interaction.
- 17 May - 4:30-7pm - NRM Education has asked if a Board member is available to attend an education evening to talk about the Board, DEWNR and why NRM is important. The Presiding member will check if Peter Duggin is available.
- 17 May – 11-1pm - Correctional Services are hosting a day where they are inviting community leaders to come together to discuss ways to prevent reoffending in the community. Manager Parks and Sustainable Landscapes will be in attendance.

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

### **270417-136-6.1 Board Presentations Overview**

The Board felt that David and Di's presentation on the river was the best the Board has ever received. Both David and Di showed a high level of caring for communities.

**Action: Executive Officer to arrange a thank you card and letter of thanks and all the best for retirement to go to David.**

### **270417-136-6.2 Board Meeting Overview**

Nil

### **270417-136-6.3 Items for future Board Meetings**

Nil

### **270417-136-6.4 Any other business**

- The SA Museum is offering funding for a science/art projects. SAMDB have put forward a bid. The bid focused on using materials for creating art that relate to the 4 parks within SAMDB. The bid is for \$10,000 and the artworks will be showcased at the next SALA exhibition to showcase the works.
- The Regional Director advised he will bring a paper to the next Board meeting Board outlining his observations and potential efficiencies for the Board to consider.

### **270417-136-6.5 Next Meeting**

Friday 26 May 2017 Burra

**270417-136-6.6** Public Meeting closed at 15.20pm

**Presiding Member Sharon Starick**  
**Presiding Member**

