

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY IRRIGATORS INCORPORATED

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at the Berri Hotel on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2003 commencing at 3.00 p.m.

**1. WELCOME**

Tony Roe, Chairman SAMI welcomed all to the SAMI AGM

**PRESENT**

There were 22 members present as listed in the attendance register and 1 member had given a proxy.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Karlene Maywald MP (Member for Chaffey)

Peter Falcinella	Graham McInness	Peter Detloff	Dennis Elliott
Mark McLean	Ian Simpson	Gordon McKerlie	Steve Rathjen
Phillip Othams (Tanunda Golf Club)			

**3. MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2002 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

MOVED S.Newell SECONDED I.Zadow That the Minutes be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record. CARRIED.

**3.1 BUSINESS ARISING**

D.Foote advised that Mike Keelan (0418 816 266) re publicity has not yet been done – the Assistant Executive Officer will contact M.Keelan during November 2003.

**4. RESOLUTION 1**

The motion had been circulated to all members prior to the AGM.

To change the wording in the constitution of Clause 5.2(a) which currently reads :-

“The committee shall be comprised of nine members”

to :-

“The committee shall be comprised of up to twelve members”

Discussion on the Resolution took place with T.Roe & S.Newell explaining why committee numbers should be changed from 9 to 12.

MOVED N.Shillabeer SECONDED R.Smyth That Resolution 1 be adopted. CARRIED.

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

### 5.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

T. Roe presented his Chairman's Report to the meeting.

MOVED T.Roe SECONDED R.Smyth That the Chairman's Report be adopted. CARRIED.

The Chairman then invited Paul Martin to give a report on Environmental Flows Reference Panel and Sam Newell to give a report on National Farmers Federation to the meeting

#### ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS REFERENCE PANEL (EFRP) REPORT – P.Martin

The ERR Panel has been meeting over a 2-year period & has had about 20 meetings during this time.

P.Martin explained how he became a member of the EFRP & that being on this panel can often be frustrating due to the long process involved.

EFRP are now talking about having 4 environmental significant sites ( including Chowilla & Coorong Mouth in SA) moving away from having to find 1500GI for environmental flow.

All agree that environmental water needs to be counted in low to medium flood times but maybe not counted in times of drought

There has been no decision of clawing/buying back water for environmental flows.

The effects on SA Irrigators re environmental flows is not yet decided.

Views in SA on environment flows varies from the border to the mouth – the community needs to be aware that the underlying trend of the River Murray is decline.

No	Statement / Question from	Question
1	R.Smart	There needs to be a fair & equitable way re water claw back Suggested that the MDB web site be viewed for information Believes it is disgraceful that SA Govt. puts pressure on irrigators re water claw back when there are larger users of water SAMI needs to play an important role in giving the irrigators view to the Govt. especially via the media
2	M.Vegter	SAMI policy has been that SAMI does not support any compulsory acquisition of water by Govt. The Govt. & Govt. Departments are aware of SAMI's policy
3	N.Shillabeer	SAMI needs to play an important role in this topic but irrigators need to get behind SAMI. SAMI profile should be lifted to have a louder voice
4	I.Zadow	Advised meeting that SAMI has had difficulty getting articles into newspapers especially positive articles.

#### NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION (NFF) CONFERENCE REPORT – S.Newell

NFF believe they have an “ear” in Canberra.

Through Irrigators Inc. NFF asked if SAMI would like to be represented & this offer has been accepted.

The NFF conference was held in response to the National water Initiative. There are 5 areas in the initiative.

NFF/SAFF will be giving a presentation to the Prime Minister – S.Newell has a copy of the summary of this presentation.

S.Newell also reported on the Tullamarine group meeting that he & P.Martin attended. There is a 2-page communiqué available of the Tullamarine group meeting.

SAMI are having input & advising these groups of SA views.

The meeting was advised to contact the Assistant Executive Officer if they wish to receive information the above topics.

No	Statement / Question from	Question
1	D.Foote	Reinforced the idea of a CEO for SAMI to represent SAMI as the above mentioned meetings + the need to have someone collating information & passing it out to the interested irrigators.
2	P.Martin	Interstate levies raise \$5-\$600k which is a great deal more than SA raises
3	M.Vegter	Information is not coming through from SA Govt. Interstate irrigators have much more information from their Governments. Any discussions SAMI has with Minister Hill will include a way to assist SAMI with funds for a CEO. SAMI is trying to help itself & raises some funds via membership fees. (SAMI needs to keep up with all information on a National scale & to do this is a full time job.)

## 5.2 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Reports were tabled.

M.Vegter spoke to the financial report :

- The membership base is \$15,000 & this is not enough to support a paid CEO position therefore SAMI is looking at funding opportunities & arrangements with other organisations. SAMI membership is currently ~212 & this includes the Sunlands Irrigation Trust, Golden Heights Irrigation Trust, Renmark Irrigation Trust & Central Irrigation Trust – therefore SAMI is representing 2,500 to 3,000 irrigators
- DWLBC have given a grant to SAMI of \$5,000 which has enabled delegates to attend the Irrigator Inc. meetings in NSW, Qld. & Vic.
- The importance on continuity with Irrigators Inc. was explained to the meeting
- The loss last year was explained (reserves from the previous year have covered this)
- If SAMI is successful with Horticulture Ltd. re the CEO position then SAMI will be required to pay funds up front to enable this position to be put into place therefore funds need to be held in reserve. The CEO position should generate its own funds due to greater membership & possible sponsorship.

No	Statement / Question from	Question
1	R.Smart	Where would the CEO would be based? M.Vegter advised that if successful with Horticulture House then the location would be Berri but the locality should be irrelevant as the CEO

		would ensure that the whole of the River in SA would be covered & represented.
2	R.Ralph	Suggestion made that the travel costs listed in the finances could be linked to where they are used such as Irrigators Inc.
3	N.Shillabeer	Asked if the funds in the finance report included the \$8,000 from the Lower Murray Group when it went into recess. M.Vegeter explained that this \$8,000 will be shown in the 2003/04 financial statement as these funds were paid to SAMI after 30/6/03.
4	T.Roe	Advised that SAMI has written to DWLBC giving a report on what the \$5,000 grant was spent on & requesting a further \$5,000 grant.
5	D.Foote	A CEO for SAMI could develop a marketing program to assist to bring in funding
6	R.Smart	General comments given re how the community views irrigators. Agreed with D.Foote's comment re CEO developing marketing program to assist SAMI funding
7	T.Roe	Sponsorship program for SAMI to be investigated
8	B.Sidhu	General comments re - Newsletter distribution & a web page for SAMI & possible assistance from other bodies such as Horticulture Aust. & sponsorship for SAMI

MOVED R.Smyth SECONDED N.Shillabeer That the Financial Reports be accepted.  
CARRIED.

### 5.3 MEMBERSHIP FEES (RESOLUTION 2)

The motion had been circulated to all members prior to the AGM.

To increase the membership fees for the coming 2003/04 year to :-

0-99 MI	\$50
100-400MI	\$75
500-4999MI	\$150
5000+MI	\$600

(Current membership fees are:

0-99 MI	\$30
100-400MI	\$55
500-4999MI	\$105
5000+MI	\$405)

MOVED B.Sidhu SECONDED D.Foote That Resolution 2 be adopted. CARRIED.

### 6. GUEST SPEAKER

David Wotton, Chairman, River Murray Catchment Water Management Board gave an informative talk about the direction and funding of the Catchment Board.

No	Statement / Question from	Question
1	D.Wotton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General comments on the RMCWMB having the same issues with communication and concerns re community awareness as SAMI does.</li> <li>• Supports SAMI in their aim to fund &amp; employ a CEO</li> <li>• General comments media coverage in the Advertiser – more people know about the River Murray &amp; its plight than ever before but positive media coverage is difficult to find.</li> <li>• Decision at next Ministerial Council meeting re environmental flows commented on (RMCWMB contacted by MDBC – a task force was established re water &amp; possible claw back – the 1<sup>st</sup> report has been done &amp; recommendations for water recovery mechanisms are listed.</li> <li>• RMCWMB Plans available to the community – all encouraged to obtain a copy or view this on the web site.</li> <li>• Encouraged irrigators/community members to give the RMCWMB feedback</li> </ul>
2	P.Martin	<p>Commented on water use efficiency &amp; the crop factor in the Water Allocation Plan (WAP) The consultation process for the WAP with industry re measurement of efficiency was very poor.</p> <p>D.Wotton suggested a letter to the RMCWMB requesting a meeting with SAMI representatives, J.Johnson (RMCWMB) &amp; Dept. administrators of the WAP be sent to enable SAMI to raise their concerns re the crop factor etc.</p>
3	B.Sidhu	Commented that the measurement for water use efficiency should be water used compared to quantity of crop produced
4		Suggestion that the evaporation rates etc. used in the WAP should be actual figures not averages.
5	R.Smart	<p>RMCWMB budget = \$6m How can RMCWMB assist SAMI</p> <p>D.Wotton suggested a submission be sent into the RMCWMB for their consideration.</p>
6	R.Smart	General comments on interstate water and the amount of evaporation that occurs.
7	D.Foote	<p>Natural Resource Management (NRM) process concerns re ensuring the river stays as a major focus especially as NRM will have many varied areas to cover.</p> <p>D.Wotton suggested SAMI invite David Wickes to speak on NRM issues.</p>

T.Roe, Chairman thanked David Wotton for his presentation.

## 7. COMMITTEE NOMINATION

As resolution 1 was adopted SAMI is seeking at least four nominations.

There are four members retiring due to the expiration of their term in office (Greg Hocking is not seeking re-election).

The following retirees are eligible and are seeking re-election.

These members are :

Tony Roe                      Sam Newell                      Paul Martin

SAMI has also received a nomination from Frank Condo.

During the year Mr. Neil Shillabeer filled a vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Graham Smart. He retires from the committee. He is seeking and is eligible for re-election.

Nominations from the floor were called for by the returning officer Mike Vegter {one of which is needed to represent the Upper Murray region (from Kingston on Murray to the border)}

B.Sidhu NOMINATED Richard Smart SECONDED I.Zadow

F.Condo NOMINATED Doug Marks SECONDED N.Shillabeer

R.Smart NOMINATED Leroy Sims SECONDED P.Martin

MOVED B.Sidhu SECONDED R.Smyth that as there are the correct number of nominations for vacant positions that all nominations be accepted. CARRIED

The Committee is now comprised of:-

Tim Whetstone, Paul Martin, Richard Smart, Leroy Sims	(Upper Murray)
Rob Smyth, Ted Woods, Tony Roe, Frank Condo	(Mid Murray)
Ian Zadow, Sam Newell, D.Marks, N.Shillabeer	(Lower Murray)

## 8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

MOVED N.Shillabeer SECONDED D.Foote That we reappoint Nick Baker of Nicholas Baker & Co. Pty. Ltd. of 15 McCoy Street Waikerie to be our Auditor for the 2003/2004 financial year.

CARRIED

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 IAN ZADOW REPORTED ON MEETING TO BE HELD WITH MINISTER HILL 19/11/03

The public meeting will be held 19/11/03 at Murray Bridge Community Club commencing at 7.30pm. Minister Hill & Peter Lewis MP have accepted invitations to attend.

An outline of items to be discussed was given to the meeting by I.Zadow.

Questions to the Minister from SAMI to include :

No.	Question raised by:	Question
1	N.Shillabeer	An answer is required re the question of relativity of storage in the catchment area and the entitlement flow to SA. Irrigators need an idea of entitlement flow. Can a benchmark for this be produced?
2	I.Zadow	Leased water & stamp duty being paid on this – Why can't stamp duty be abolished on water transfers?
3	D.Marks	Water storage for next season has commenced interstate so why isn't SA receiving its 100% water allocation?
	N.Shillabeer (in response to Q3)	Advised that the Govt. is still mindful of the Lower Lakes area storage levels & that the Lower Lakes still require more water & this may be the reason that SA has not allocated full water allocations to growers.
4	S.Newell	Information required on trigger points for setting water allocation to SA. Govt. advise the irrigators when they are altering the % irrigators can use of their allocation but not how the formula is calculated. Irrigators need the information earlier for planning purposes
5	I.Zadow	Minister Hill to be made aware of SA cap agreement on water
6	P.Martin	Last year SA received its entitlement but 300Gl were unaccounted for due to evaporation. Is the Govt. going to re-account for evaporation?
7	F.Condo	Entitlement flow for SA – Need to check with K.Maywald MP re if she has followed up with the Govt. yet that more water is required for environmental flows to SA – If this has not been done then question to be raised at Murray Bridge meeting.
	R.Smart	Made a general comment re Adelaide & its reliance on the River Murray. Adelaide is growing but it has not installed more storage dams for water supply therefore is more reliant on River Murray water.

9.2 PUBLIC MEETING – MINISTERIAL COUNCIL UPDATE

D.Wotton advised the meeting that a public meeting would be held in Berri giving an update on the Ministerial Council meeting. This meeting will be held approx. 1/12/03 & it is expected that it will be attended by David Dole MDC, Peter Hoey DWLBC & Paul Harvey DWLBC  
Everyone is encouraged to attend.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

CONFIRMED.....

CHAIRMAN

DATE.....