

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY IRRIGATORS INCORPORATED

Minutes of the Committee Meeting No. 18 at the Swan Reach Hotel on Monday 17th March, 2003 commencing at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

T. Roe (Chairman), P. Martin, R. Smyth, S. Newell, I. Zadow, T. Whetstone, M. Vegter (Executive Officer), S. Powardy (Assistant Executive Officer), R. Ralph (Public Officer).

F. Condo, T. Daniel and I. Franssen (Guests).

MINUTES

MOVED R. Smyth SECONDED T. Whetstone That the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 17th February, 2003 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record. CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING

Membership - The committee asked how much feed back have we had with the letters we sent out for new membership. At the time of the meeting we had received four new memberships.

Travel Support - S.A.M.I. had invoiced The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation for \$5,000. This being for reimbursement of travel to Irrigators Inc meetings.

Regional Meetings - We need to get the message to irrigators what lays ahead for them, with the implementation of WAP. Try and get as many private irrigators involved with the meetings we are organising with I. Franseen.

S. Newell's Policies

A graph of what water each of the four states has used since 1970 was tabled. NSW has been using far more than their allocation. Why should we take across the board cut until NSW starts to take some responsibility for their excess water use?

R. Ralph stated that we should not try to split the irrigators for the mistakes made by Governments of the past. It was the Government who gave them the allocations. All irrigators should try and work together.

The Government has just allocated \$150 million to the Snowy Scheme.

Policy No. 1 - With a few word changes the policy now reads: -

"We believe that across the board cuts in the Murray-darling basin allocations would be inequitable for South Australian Irrigators and should not be implemented unless considerable reductions in consumptive use are achieved by other states."

Policy No. 2 - Only meant to be a statement and an explanation of support for No. 1.

MOVED S. Newell SECONDED R. Smyth That we accept Policy No. 1 with the changes and take policy no. 2 as being an explanation to one. CARRIED.

We need to determine what South Australia lost in 1969 as part of our argument.

Permanent Reductions in Water Allocations - A letter should be sent to the Minister stating the policy of SAMI. A copy of the letter should be sent to P. Hoey, Rob Freeman and Jim Hallison PIRSA, C.E.O.

P. Martin indicated that if the drought continues there will be consultation on the way water is allocated or taken from the river with the likelihood of reduced entitlement flows.

Ingrid Franssen told the meeting that there is a meeting tomorrow with the Heads of Departments to discuss restricted flows.

Meningie Meeting - A different date was considered for this meeting, but it was decided that as the venue had been booked for 7th April, and Paul Harvey was available, this meeting date should be kept. All committee members who could attend should do so. It would be an information evening for all irrigators who attend. We need to try and sell SAMI to the meeting. Ingrid suggested some of the points of interest for the evening could be:

- Salinity levels
- Lake levels
- Drought

Bus Trip - It was thought that we could advertise this through the local papers in each area and the local radio stations. Also letters sent out to members. S. Newell thought that Pyramid Hill should be included in the itinerary. It was decided to fit all the sites in comfortably it would be worth staying an extra night. S. Powardy to find out whether the bus was available for another day and what accommodation was available.

R. Ralph asked whether we were receiving any funding for the trip from P. Hoey. M. Vegter told the meeting that there was no more funding available.

INGRID FRANSEEN

- Salinity accountability for impacts on the river
- River Murray Act to be introduced soon
- SAMI to help aim this towards private irrigators, which in the past has been missing.
- Salt Interception schemes
- Victoria is now passing South Australia in dealing with salinity. Nyah to the border was used as an example. Costs for salt interception in risky areas paid by growers in Victoria.
- Let the irrigators have a say about their concerns before the policies are finalised.

The thinking at the moment what different things could happen.

- Different solutions for different areas.
- Irrigators solve and own the salt interception schemes.
- Rebates
- The River Murray Bill will allow us to do more things.

Qualco Sunlands Drainage Scheme will be a model for future schemes.

The Regional Meetings along the river with Ingrid will be an avenue for the Department to get feedback from the irrigators.

T. Daniel asked how they could work out an individual's impact on salinity. Ingrid informed the meeting that they have a general model of an area and not for an individual property. The area will be classified as a high, medium or low zone.

Ingrid told the meeting she has a budget for consulting, so she will be able to help out with advertising for the meetings. A letter to irrigators inviting them to the meeting in their area and then we will follow up with some publicity.

- 12th May, 2003 - Renmark - P. Martin to organise
- 13th May, 2003 - Loxton - P. Martin to organise
- 14th May, 2003 - Waikerie - M. Vegter/S. Powardy to organise
- 15th May, 2003 - Mannum - I. Zadow to organise

To document our concerns on WAP to the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation. Perhaps we could get someone to come to our next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

In - Vitor Marketing Pty. Ltd.

The list of the known committees and groups who have some kind of responsibility or charter for the River Murray:

- S.A.M.I.
- Government Departments
- LAP Groups
- M.D. Association
- Angas Bremmer Water Resources Management Committee
- Langhorne Creek Irrigators Association
- L.M.I.A.G.
- Pike Mundic Irrigators

Out - Response to Vitor letter

FINANCIAL

Bank Reconciliation as at 28th February, 2003
Balance Sheet as at 28th February, 2003
Income & Expenditure as at 28th February, 2003

Sunlands Account - \$677.35

MOVED P. Martin SECONDED S. Newell That the Sunlands account be paid. CARRIED.

M. Vegter Account - \$634.00

MOVED S. Newell SECONDED I. Zadow That the account for M. Vegter be paid. CARRIED.

MOVED R. Smyth SECONDED I. Zadow That S. Newell be reimbursed for his trip to the value of \$307.30. CARRIED.

NSW Cotton Trip (Sam Newell) - A letter to be sent to Paul Harvey and the Department thanking them for their generosity and invitation. A letter to Cotton Australia (Ralph Leuton, C.E.O.), to thank them as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Property Rights Forum - Mike presented an outline of the meeting.

R. Smyth suggested that it would be a good idea to work with the Government on this.

R. Ralph attended the meeting in Albury on Trading Rights. It seemed from the meeting that everyone was interested in themselves and not looking at it from a state or federal issue. Rod did not think a lot came out of the meeting.

Irrigators Inc. - Mike presented an outline of the meeting.

Parliamentary Forum On Murray River Water - It was a great start the SAMI had an invitation, but we had no say, just was there as an observer. The Adelaide Declaration came out of it. A copy was tabled.

Community Reference Panel - P. Martin reported on the meeting held on 11th March, 2003.

- Interim decision on Environmental Flows by October, 2003
- Meeting in Goolwa late May
- Water Forum in Melbourne

Lower Murray Rehabilitation - M. Vegter to write a letter to Dennis Hicks about their problems asking for some information from them so SAMI could offer some help. Ask them if they would like to have a representative on our committee.

Water Action Plan - Will be discussed at the meeting with I. Franseen.

Lower Murray Irrigators Meeting - A resolution was passed at their last meeting that they will disband and they would pass on their list of membership, and funds to SAMI. They are seeking legal advice before everything is finalised.

MOVED P. Martin SECONDED S. Newell That we accept the current financial members of Lower Murray Private Irrigators Association into membership of SAMI until 30th June, 2004 on the condition that funds will be transferred to SAMI when available. CARRIED.

S. Newell's Trip - Outlined his trip with Cotton Australia to NSW. S. Newell stated it was a very beneficial trip.

Radio Interview - ABC Radio had rang T. Roe, after the Murray Bridge meeting asking about Lower Murray Private Irrigators.

F. Condo and T. Daniell to be put onto the mailing list.

Irrigators Inc. next meeting 25th and 26th May, 2003.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th May, at Swan Reach at 3.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

CONFIRMED.....
CHAIRMAN

DATE.....