

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY IRRIGATORS INC.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting No. 23 at the Swan Reach Hotel on Tuesday 14th October, 2003 commencing at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

T. Roe (Chairman), T. Woods, T. Whetstone, R. Smyth, N. Shillabeer, I. Zadow, S. Newell, J. Eckerman, R. Ralph, F. Condo, Mr. Vegter (Executive Officer), S. Powardy (Assistant Executive Officer).

APOLOGIES

P. Martin.

MINUTES

MOVED A. Newell SECONDED R. Smyth That the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9th September, 2003 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record. CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING

N. Shillabeer's comment on the depth surveys of the Lakes, should of read that they were being conducted.

Ian Zadow reported that the meeting with John Hill would not be happening on 28th October.

Lower Murray irrigators are waiting for a report on their future. If there is no flow, they will lose their levels. We will need 92% entitlement flow to have flow in the lower end of the Murray.

After the Press Release, we have had a few comments. If the Government do not have the figures for now, how are we going to go over the next twelve months?

Ian Zadow asked whether we have a Guest Speaker for the Annual General Meeting. Paul Harvey was unavailable.

Keith Walker may be available, depending on his commitments with exams. He also would need help with the hire of a vehicle.

Other suggestions were:-

- Brenton Erman
- Mark Falkner
- Mike Young
- Bob Newman
- David Wotton
- Mike Smith

It was decided that one speaker would be sufficient, depending on availability.

The meeting thought that David Wotton would be 1st preference, Mike Smith 2nd and Keith Walker 3rd.

T. Whetstone - What topic would we like him to talk on?

- Catchment Board Levy - Where it goes
- Natural Resources
- Soil Management
- Where they are heading in the future
- Irrigator important main contributor

Nomination Forms for the A.G.M. the existing Committee Members do not need to be nominated, if they wish to stand again.

S. Newell asked about changing the Constitution on increasing the numbers of the committee. He would like it changed from 9 to 12 members.

A notice of resolution of change needed to be sent to members 21 days prior to the A.G.M.

R. Ralph questioned why we needed to change it, was it going to be any better. In addition, they would be a cost involved.

N. Shillabeer was concerned that there was a danger of not having representation from different areas.

R. Ralph suggested that if there were one improvement we wanted to make, perhaps there would be more. Could we live with over the next twelve months, and look at it more closely during this time to see if there was any more changes needed.

T. Roe informed the committee that we could invite irrigators from their areas to come to the meeting.

M. Vegter asked was there a feeling that some areas were being left out. Different areas, different problems.

R. Smyth said that it was up to the delegates to get the view of their irrigators to S.A.M.I.

The non-government swamps were not members of S.A.M.I.

S. Newell suggested that we get the irrigators that are interested on board now, before we lose them.

MOVED S. Newell SECONDED N. Shillabeer That we change 5.2 (a) from "The committee shall be comprised of nine members" to read "The Committee shall be comprised of up to twelve members".

G. Hocking will not be seeking re-election.

The following four members are due to retire, other than G. Hocking the others are seeking re-election.

T. Roe, G. Hocking, S. Newell, P. Martin

If the resolution is accepted and we are looking for 12 members, we have one nomination from F. Condo 28 days prior to the meeting this means he automatically is elected onto the committee. Nominations for the three vacancies will be taken from the floor.

Membership - A comparison list of membership fees was tabled. There would be an increase of around 50%, could not increase this any more. We needed to attract more members.

MOVED I. Zadow SECONDED S. Newell That we increase the membership fees for the coming 2004/03 year to:-

0-99ml	\$50
100-499 ml	\$75
500-4999ml	\$150
5000+ml	\$600

CARRIED.

N. Shillabeer asked if a list of members could be sent to committee members.

N. Shillabeer advised the meeting that after the meeting with Rob Bastian, F. Condo had put together a report. It was thought that this needed more time, so it would be discussed in General Business.

CORRESPONDENCE

Out

Karlene Maywald, M.P. - Re: Executive Officer

M. Vegter told the meeting that he was not 100% convinced that what we had been looking at was the right thing to do. The planning that P. McFarlane was doing would change all the time. Did not know that H.A.C. had any funding. The problem with SAMI when the delegates go interstate for meetings you find that we are out of the loop.

M. Vegter had discussed this with T. Roe and P. Martin and they thought we could approach Karlene to see if there were any funds available. M. Vegter also had a chance meeting with Neil Andrew and he seemed very interested in SAMI and Mike was told to keep him posted, as he would be out of parliament within the next 12 months.

M. Vegter spoke to K. Maywald today and she informed him that there would be a meeting set up, in Adelaide, with John Holloway, John Hill, Karlene Maywald and SAMI delegates the week starting 3rd November, 2003.

T. Roe informed the meeting that the commodity groups in Horticultural House were wondering if they were going to get sufficient time with the Project Officer. It may be in SAMI's best interest if we could stay by ourselves.

N. Shillabeer said how in the early years with Horticultural Australia Council, there were funding problems. He thought that they did not have a good profile, and perhaps were floundering.

Ian Zadow said that if we were going to work with the Government, then having Karlene on side would be to our advantage. He suggested perhaps we could get Peter Lewis involved as well.

The Media Release ruffled a few feathers.

R. Ralph suggested that if we do not have proof that Peter Lewis was supportive of the project perhaps we should not invite him.

Encourage parliament from both ends of the river.

S. Newell suggested that the deal was between Karlene and the Government, we perhaps could ask her if she was happy to have Peter Lewis involved.

R. Smyth indicated that Riverland Horticultural House funds were limited as well.

MOVED N. Shillabeer SECONDED I. Zadow That we need to pursue the possibilities as set out in the letter to K. Maywald, M.P. CARRIED.

S. Newell was afraid if we accept money from the Government that they would start to dictate to us.

Two delegates from SAMI would represent us at this meeting. Depending on availability it was suggested - T. Roe, M. Vegter or P. Martin.

Peter Hoey - Re:- Letter for reimbursement for interstate travel and accommodation.

FINANCE

Bank Reconciliation as at 30th September, 2003
List of Cheques & Receipts as at 30th September, 2003
Accounts to be paid - Sunlands Irrigation Trust
- D. Kerr
- S. Newell

MOVED I. Zadow SECONDED R. Smyth That the accounts presented be paid.
CARRIED.

Transfer \$12,000 to the Cash Management Account.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rob Bastian - The feeling from the Waikerie meeting that when asked, "What do you want", what could they offer. We need finance to finance a Project Officer.

M. Vegter's opinion was that he was a lobbyist, that he moved in the circles that could be beneficial in Canberra.

N. Shillabeer's opinion was that what he could get out of us to take back to Canberra.

F. Condo tabled his proposal for Rob Bastian.

S. Newell - We need to read and go through the proposal. The N.F.F. is putting out a report. We need to get our principles into place.

We need to push our history. The allowing of over allocations has been the problem in the past.

Rob Bastian was not interested in state issues, but federal.

M. Vegter said that the content of Frank's report was good, and on the right track, we need to all read it and comment.

Rob Bastian was from H.A.C., but it was H.A.L. who have the money and funding. It was commodity owned.

M. Vegter said that we should not stop with R. Bastian, that we should take our report to Irrigators Inc. and directly to the Government.

S. Newell warned to be careful of what you say.

Good basis to work from, comments can be made and something could be put together.

Frank and two others could modify it and fax it out to the members.

From the Langhorne Creek meeting it came out that what was wanted was continuous water and high security water.

IRRIGATORS INC.

S. Newell commented on the Irrigators Inc. Meeting held in Brisbane. There was still no Victorian representative, it was evident that they were still having problems. Victorian Irrigators Council was hoping to reactivate, so they could attend Irrigators Inc. Meetings. Sam thought it was just a matter of time before the problem was rectified.

Each state provided details of how each were going.

It was reported that Jennifer Marahasy makes good points, but does not report all the information.

Individual members need to go through C.O.A.G. This ties up with what F. Condo has done with his report and the N.F.F. National Water Initiative.

What are the irrigator's duties of care obligations for BMP?

- Metering of all water
- Be aware of what is happening on a national front.

S. Newell said how we just are not getting information through to the Minister. That will come from our initial meeting with John Hill and John Holloway. There just have not been enough hours in the day to keep up with everything.

Ian Zadow said that we should push the point that it will be an advantage for everyone, including the Government to have a Project Officer for S.A.M.I.

All irrigators large or small need to be metered. We need a department overview where we are at. We need to know statistics - how many irrigators are metered? There are issues coming up interstate and we need to know what is happening in our own state.

Acting on behalf of all irrigators, we could write to the Minister, lobbying to get all unmetered irrigators to be metered.

We need a Project Officer to push forward.

S. Newell asked if anyone wants Deb Kerr's email

F. Condo we need all information available to us.

PRESS RELEASE

We had a favourable response towards our Press Release. The following aired it:-

- River News
- Murray Pioneer
- The Advertiser
- ABC Radio

M. Vegter said how the Minister misread the point about the trigger points. He could not understand that the irrigators did not know what the trigger points were. Why should the irrigators be buying water if they do not need to?

N.F.F. MEETING

- National Water Initiative
- Four/five groups set up
- Over allocated water
- Dominated by N.S.W./VIC
- Two icon sites in SA

On the 17th October there is going to be a telephone link up.

FRANK CONDO'S REPORT

It was suggested that we take it away and have a look at it. To set up a small working group - F. Condo, I. Zadow and N. Shillabeer.

Do we worry about sending R. Bastian anything at this time? The HAC meeting is at the end of the month. Just need to soften some of the points. Needs to be kept simple so people can understand it. Committee members to take it away and fax their comments to any of the working group.

OTHER BUSINESS

Golden Heights and Sunlands Irrigation Trusts had a joint meeting and discussed S. Powardy's hours. Sharon had been offered permanent part time work with Sunlands and it is proposed that Sharon will not have enough time to do SAMI's work. It is proposed that Frances Simes take over Sharon's hours. Frances would work the same hours that are required at the same rate of pay.

The committee was happy with this proposal.

S. Newell on behalf of the Committee would like to offer a vote of thanks to Sharon for the work she has done over the past twelve months. T. Roe added that Mike and Sharon have done a great job.

The next meeting will be after the AGM at Berri on 11th November, 2003.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

CONFIRMED.....

CHAIRMAN

DATE.....

