

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MURRAY IRRIGATORS INC.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting No. 20 at the Swan Reach Hotel on Tuesday 1st July, 2003 commencing at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

T. Roe (Chairman), I. Zadow, R. Smyth, T. Wood, G. Hocking, R. Ralph, F. Condo, T. Martin, P. McFarlane, I. Simpson, N. Shillabeer, J. Eckermann, D. Marks, G. McKerlie (Guests), S. Powardy (Assistant Executive Officer).

APOLOGIES

P. Martin, S. Newell, M. Vegter, T. Daniells, T. Whetstone.

MINUTES

A correction on page 5 that R. Smyth advised that Central Irrigation Trust had met and the following comments were made. It should have read that C.I.T. were not happy with P. Martin's comments over the media about the salt impact and salt levy, and all the other comments were made by R. Smyth and not C.I.T.

MOVED R. Smyth SECONDED I. Zadow That the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 27th March, 2003 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING

I. Zadow advised the meeting he had not heard from the dairymen from the Lower Murray.

We needed to report to Irrigators Inc. on Property Rights and C.O.A.G. By August.

T. Roe explained to the guests who Irrigators Inc. were and what they did.

CORRESPONDENCE

OUT

Peter Hoey - Water Restrictions

Bryan Francis - Riverland Development Corporation - Re: Grant

IN

Paul Holloway - In reply to letter sent to him.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Reconciliation as at 24th June, 2003.

I. Zadow advised the meeting that Terry Daniells has had trouble with the banks in transferring the money from the Lower Murray Irrigators account to S.A.M.I.'s account.

We have sent out membership renewals totalling \$13,970.

Sunlands account - \$1,301.53.

MOVED I. Zadow SECONDED R. Smyth That the Financial Report be received.
CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

Press Release - Was tabled.

Irrigators Inc. - I. Zadow commented that all the other states seemed to be well on their way with their comments on Water Recovery.

It was uncertain as to what Irrigators Inc. was looking for. Did it have to do with Environmental Flows and Water Property Rights?

R. Smyth, along with other members of C.I.T. attended an A.N.C.I.D. Meeting on Environmental Flows and Water Property Rights.

To contact Deb Kerr to find out what they want from us.

Contact S. Newell and P. Martin as they attended the last Irrigators Inc. meeting.

S. Powardy to find out whether we have been sent any Minutes from Irrigators Inc.

Ian Zadow commented what short time frames we have to do things in.

Riverland Task Force Meetings - In all the meetings that they had, the Water Allocation Plan was the way the meetings wanted to go. It was thought that the Government had made their decision, before any meetings were held and that they were just a formality.

N. Shillabeer made the comment that restrictions on allocation in the Lower Murray, will not make any difference, it will be getting water and what quality of water is their problem.

D. Marks comment that S.A.M.I. needed to realise that vegetable crops were just as important as permanent plantings.

S.A.M.I. needs to be looking ahead, if restrictions are still in place next year, we should have a stance.

A committee of irrigators has been formed in the Lower Murray and they would like to have a representative on S.A.M.I.

FUNDING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Horticultural House was looking at employing an Executive Officer on a part-time basis, and thought S.A.M.I. could perhaps look at employing the person for the other half of their time, to bring it up to a full time position.

Tom Martin explained that Horticultural Council was made up of four main commodity groups - citrus, vines, almonds and stone fruit. They have the secretarial staff that works out of Horticultural Council. S.A.M.I. has the opportunity to command attention and join forces.

Riverland Horticultural Council had placed an advertisement in the paper for an Executive Officer, but the replies that they had back were not what they were looking for. If they did it together with S.A.M.I., advertising a full time position, we may get a better response.

Peter McFarlane commented that both organisations were at an important cross road and strength will come from unity.

S.A.M.I. would become the irrigator body for the council.

Both organisations would be asked to fund half the expense of employing an E.O., \$20,000 each. Horticultural Council and S.A.M.I. would probably be compatible with Horticultural Australia requirements in getting a grant. The gap could be funded through grants from Riverland Development Corporation or a "fighting fund" e.g. cash donations, membership.

In the first twelve months, a levy could be introduced, so the project could be funded in the future.

P. McFarlane needs to have an application into Horticultural Australia within two weeks.

T. Martin did not see that there would be a problem of Horticultural Council accepting the proposal. S.A.M.I. and Horticultural Council would work as a partnership.

For P. McFarlane to organise a funding package and anything else that was appropriate, his charge would be approximately \$5,000.

N. Shillabeer asked whether a time of 2.5 would be enough for an E.O. for S.A.M.I. P. McFarlane explained that the person would have a team of professional people to help.

To get Corporate Sponsorship you need to show what we have done. Together with Horticultural House, we can become a leader.

R. Ralph said how S.A.M.I. has already been in recess once, if we do not seize the opportunity it may happen again.

Now S.A.M.I. has not got the resources of what needs to be done.

Horticultural Australia Council has a representative in Canberra. Irrigation is one of the top priorities. Things will happen we just need to pull together.

G. Hocking thought that it was a positive move, and that we should go with it.

MOVED G. Hocking SECONDED R. Smyth That S.A.M.I. and the Riverland Horticultural Council form a 50:50 Partnership to fund a full time Irrigation project Officer, to be employed by the Riverland Horticultural Council, subject to funding. CARRIED.

Horticultural Australia would require the voluntary funding, before they offer any money to us. We need to have access to the money before anything gets started.

R. Ralph suggested that Irrigators Inc. might subsidise us, if they want us to continue.

P. McFarlane will commence immediately on the application. It will include:-

- Role of the Executive Officer
- Budget
- 50/50 partnership

He will be in contact with both organisations in the next couple of weeks and he would like as much feed back as possible. He would then get the final document to both committees for them to sign.

Approval from Horticultural Australia Council, should be back by the end of August. We should have something in place by September/October when the Government comes back to the irrigators.

The meeting decided that P. McFarlane should go ahead with his proposal. Peter explained that payment would only be expected on results.

There will be a representative from each part of the river, e.g. upper, middle and lower, on the selection panel.

OTHER BUSINESS

D. Marks asked whether we were going to challenge the Government on their decision. Why are city dwellers on cut by 6% and irrigators 35%? On their figures, a 20% cut would have been enough, their calculations just do not add up.

We should confront them with our issues now, and not wait until it is too late. The levies that have been imposed, we should make sure that the money goes towards the health of the river. What we do in the next month is important.

Public Meeting With The Minister

G. Hocking, through an email to M. Vegter, suggested that we should organise a Public Meeting with John Hill.

Today there was a Press Release from P. Hoey, suggesting that there will be no irrigation development in the high impact area, and no new developments in those areas. By the Minister doing this he is not saving us, but driving developments out of the state. We should make him accountable for their actions. If we organise a meeting, advertise it in the Lower Murray.

S. Powardy to send a letter to Karlene Maywald, suggesting this meeting. If the meeting goes ahead make sure that S.A.M.I. run it and sets the agenda, not to let it become political. The agenda to be made up of new issues not old ones. We should be seen to be looking forward. To put some ideas together and send a copy to G. Hocking.

Horticultural Council to be invited to the meeting. Minutes of our meetings to be sent to them.

Contact Irrigators Inc. for an indication of what our subscription would be for the coming year. Perhaps we could offer them a figure and tell them we are setting something up, that is going to be beneficial to us.

The problems in the Lower Murray are different than above Lock 1. The economic impact will be worse than first thought. The opinion of Lower Murray Irrigators was that the workshops were a waste of time, because the Government had already made up their mind in what direction they would go.

G. McKerlie commented that the Lower Murray irrigators are not informed what S.A.M.I. are doing. N. Shillabeer indicated that he would make himself available to become a member of the committee. As we have not received the promised money from the Lower Murray Irrigators, he was not yet a member of S.A.M.I.

R. Ralph thanked our two guests, Tom Martin and Peter McFarlane on behalf of the members, for their input into the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th August, 2003 at Swan Reach at 4.00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.05 p.m.

CONFIRMED.....

CHAIRMAN

DATE.....

